

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHY, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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CONDUCTING EDITOR.

Published Weekly by Allen & Co., No. 189 Water-st.

{ UNDER THE JOINT EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF
A. B. ALLEN & ORANGE JUDD.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 16.]

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 1854.

[NEW SERIES.—NO. 68.]

For Prospectus, Terms, &c.,

SEE LAST PAGE.

FLAX RAISING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, N. Y.

FROM Mr. Lemuel Palmer we learn some facts in regard to flax raising, which is carried on quite extensively in the southern part of Washington County. There are a number of mills in this section—the town of Cambridge alone has seven—some of which turn out from 75,000 to 100,000 lbs. of dressed flax per annum. The smallest mills probably prepare not more than 12,000 to 15,000 lbs. At all these mills the flax is dew-rotted; that is, spread upon grass from four to six weeks. It is then prepared by machinery for the manufacturer, and shipped to different parts of the country. Formerly considerable quantities were sent to Andover, Mass.

The mill owners purchase the flax from the raisers, sometimes in the field, and sometimes delivered at the mill, with or without the seed removed. They also rent land and let out the working at so much per acre. The present season one man sold his crop, while standing, at \$47 per acre, he to pull and deliver it at the mill. The cost of pulling is generally from \$5 to \$6 per acre, where the crop is heavy.

The soil is described to be of a dark slaty character. No manure is used, though some apply ashes or plaster. About one bushel of seed is sown to the acre, and the entire cost of cultivation and delivery to the mill is estimated at \$10 to \$12 per acre. Mr. Hiram Darrow, of Cambridge, has rented and bought from 1,200 to 1,300 acres of flax this last season. For some he has paid as high as fifty dollars per acre. He took some of the flax raised on Mr. Allen Green's farm to the State Fair, which measured five feet. He is dressing, at both of his mills, one thousand pounds, or more, per day, and he dresses from 230,000 to 240,000 pounds per year, employing twenty to thirty hands most of the time. Flax is also cultivated to very near the same extent in portions of Rensselaer County.

WORCESTER COUNTY (Mass.) AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We are indebted to Mr. Wm. S. Lincoln, Corresponding and Recording Secretary of this Society, for a copy of the Report for 1854, which is just received. The style of the Report is excellent. We have not yet examined its contents.

SEE "CENT PER CENT" next page.

THE OLDEN TIMES—MODERN EXTRAVAGANCE.

AT the risk of being called "an old foggy," we feel for the moment disposed, in contemplating the present state of things around us in the embarrassments, fluctuations, and revolutions—economically and financially of the times—to compare somewhat the condition and manner of the living of our fathers, even down to thirty years ago, with those of ourselves, their children, at the present day. We can not, of course, give the subject more than a glance; but even that may not be without its interest, and cause us to reflect somewhat upon the utility and propriety—*necessity* is out of the question—of the helter-skelter pitch-ahead sort of life too many of us lead in the bustling affairs of the world; and which is, we regret to say, too rapidly making its way into the quiet homestead of the farm. As we pass, it may be observed that we are not of that useless, repining sort of disposition which looks back on "the good old times" as fraught with all that is good and worth having, nor upon the present as full of evil. The world has progressed faster within the last thirty years in the arts, as applied to human comfort and luxury, than within any like period. This is all very well; and the only query of doubt about the good this progress has effected, is as to the use we have made of it for the benefit of humanity at large, and ourselves in particular.

Born in the valley of a large tributary of the Connecticut river, in Massachusetts, upon a farm looking out from near the base of one of the mountain ranges over some of its most striking and beautiful scenery, on which our venerable grandsire, after having passed through the long struggle of the American revolution, as a military officer, had retired to spend the remainder of his days in the quietude of agricultural life, our first breath drew in a love of rural things. The song of birds, the lowing of herds, the bleating of flocks, the cheerful voice of labor in the fields, the hum of household industry, the breath of blooming orchards, the sight of their golden and ruddy fruits, the gathered harvests—all these stamped their earliest impressions on our young life, and will remain with its last pulsations. The district school, in its elements of education few and simple, but lasting in their influences, laid the substratum of what little beyond them we have since acquired. The village meeting-house, some miles away, where was weekly dispensed by a plain and pious man those lessons of a strict theology, and an

upright life which have given directness and energy of purpose to millions of men, aside from the moral teachings of the fire-side, gave us, in the clear and unmistakable precepts we there treasured up—if not always acted upon—a code of philosophy and morals sufficient for our future government. The simple, earnest intercourse of the people around us, their honesty, their economy in life, and the sure success which accompanied their endeavors, taught us the true value of industry and its steady application in working out permanent results. There were *youth* as well as children in those days, the former of which are scarcely known in the present, and in associations with them we grew to manhood—and thus it was with others of that generation.

There were poor people in those days—but not half so many, and they not half so destitute as now; nor were poor-houses half so frequent, because poor foreigners were not half so abundant. There were rich people, too, farmers as well as others, who lived in plain, comfortable houses, with nothing scarcely of the filagree, and gingerbread work about them, either outside or in, as the same class of persons have now. In all the substantial of life they lived quite as well, and with far less pretension. Their wives and daughters were quite as industrious, and far less extravagant; were as graceful in their manners, and as virtuous in their actions; their minds better stored with *useful* information, more economical, and less expensive in their habits, than now. Their reading, if not so extensive or miscellaneous as at the present day, was better in its kind, and made them more thoughtful women. If they had no cooking-stoves then, they had fewer negligent, lazy servants to look after, and were more independent in all their household affairs; and far less the slaves of fashion than *our* wives and daughters are. They had household comforts and luxuries in profusion, not half so costly, or far fetched, but wholesome for both body and mind. The girls were more beautiful in person than now, because their complexions had the rosy hue of useful exercise. They were stronger in body, because they were inured to daily labor in household duties, fitting them for healthy mothers and provident housekeepers, which, sad to say, a vast number of those in like circumstances at this day, are not.

So, according to their sex, were the young men. They did not tire of home, as soon as they had seen the sights of the neighboring village, and tease their fathers to go into

stores as clerks, get into a law office, follow off a circus, or go to California. If the paternal farm were not large enough to be partitioned off for their occupation, they bought adjoining farms with the savings of their industry, or sought homes in the new lands of the west. In all conditions of life, we think, the people of those slower days enjoyed a far greater degree of contentment, and tranquil happiness, than now. Fashionable evening parties, extending far into the morning, as they now have them, were not known. Social parties and gatherings they had, however, in sufficient number. The afternoons and early evenings were devoted to them, from which they departed at early bed-time; and the next morning, instead of headaches far into the day, found them as blithe as larks at the peep of sun, and ready for their daily duties. Females either rode on horseback, or drove themselves out, in their neighborhood calls or visits, in their comfortable chairs, without the aid of servant or footman. A tasty calico, a white muslin, or a gingham dress, became their comely forms with perfect grace for any occasion; and the storekeepers' bills for extravagant silks were seldom or never presented, to exhaust the purses of their husbands or fathers. Farms were seldom mortgaged, and neighbors' notes less frequently endorsed than now, for the purpose of investment in doubtful speculations. Credits were not so frequent, nor so much extended, and those which were contracted, more punctually paid, and the word of men in pecuniary engagements were more rigidly regarded. They had no railroads to speed them on like lightning, past friends and relatives which they would have traveled a hundred miles to spend a week with, but whom now they have not time to stop an hour and see. Stealing of money—now called *defalcation*—belonging to their employers, and the robbery of trust funds—now called *embezzlement*—were scarcely known; and when detected, were summarily punished, and the culprit disgraced in society, instead of permitting him to retire in wealth and the enjoyment of a grand house, and as he passes along the streets in his gorgeous chariot, drive over the victims of his crime. If a man committed murder, he was forthwith tried, and afterwards *hung* for it—out of doors, too, where the world could know that justice had been done.

How things are now, and how much better they are, each and every reader of our lucubrations can answer for himself.

LAMBING IN NOVEMBER.—On Tuesday last, six ewes of the Dorsetshire breed, belonging to Mr. Cruickshank Gloves, presented their owner with a couple of lambs each; and, what is no less extraordinary, 40 other ewes of the same stock are expected to lamb this week! These lambs will, therefore, be ready for the butchery by Christmas. It is something unusual in this quarter to see a flock of ewes suckling their lambs in the beginning of winter; and but for the enterprize of Mr. Cruickshank in taking the initiative in the introduction of this famed breed of sheep, we would not have had the novelty to record. We trust the success of the speculation will be such as to

induce this eminent stock-breeder to add even further to the benefits which in this respect he has already conferred upon the country. [Elgin Courier.

For the American Agriculturist.

CENT PER CENT.

MESSRS. EDITORS: We often hear of the great profits made by Wall-street speculators, and as I have been into a little profitable speculation in farming during the past year, allow me to communicate some of the details to others, that they may go "and do likewise."

A year ago a friend asked me to invest two dollars in the *American Agriculturist*. I asked him if he thought it would pay, to which he replied that if I would keep an account of expenses and profits he would guarantee me against loss. Well here are some of the particulars:

During the winter the paper advised us to raise all the spring crops possible, as there was a prospect of high prices. The article set me to thinking, and I put in 7½ acres more of spring wheat than I should otherwise have done. I followed the hints given in the number of March 22. That crop yielded me \$46 50 clear profit.

March 15th an article advised me to try sugar beets. This led me to cultivate an acre, following the directions laid down, and I have 280 bushels, costing, all told, nine cts. per bushel, and worth now at least 20 cents—a clear profit of \$30 80.

Reading an article in the paper of April 5th, on "Home-made Superphosphate," I sent as you may remember for an extra number of Nov. 3, 1853, containing directions for making it. Gathering up some bones about my farm I procured 135 lbs. of sulphuric acid and made up a preparation which cost me, labor included, \$7 30. I applied this to one half of a field of corn, and the result was 32 bushels more of corn than was produced on the other half of the field. This at 80 cents per bushel gives me a clear profit of \$16 70.

May 17th, in answer to the question, "will there be a great drouth the coming summer?" you urged your readers to prepare for such an emergency, by sowing corn for fodder. I had never seen this done, but acting upon the suggestions I sowed 3½ acres of corn in drills. The cultivation cost me less than \$20, and when the dry weather came on that crop was worth to my stock not less than one hundred dollars—a certain profit of at least \$80. My \$2 have thus, in four particulars alone, returned me an absolute profit of not less than \$174 00. Can Wall-street beat this? But I have not enumerated many other items of profit derived from various articles treating of the garden, of stock, of summer crops, and especially from your Editor's Farm Notes. I hope you will give us a large number of these chapters next year, for I like to learn just how others are carrying on their farm operations. The few chapters already given have made known to me the names and practices of half a dozen fellow farmers, who now seem like neighbors or familiar acquaintances. Indeed I went ten miles just to visit one of the farmers you described and formed a pleasant new acquaintance and learned much that is of interest and profit to me. Please come our way next season.

Let me add something more. My wife and children look for your paper with far more interest than they do for Harper's magazine. I hope you will make no change in its character. It is just such a magazine as we farmers want. As a slight token of my gratitude for what the *American Agriculturist* has done for me, I send you \$8, for the paper for myself, and four of my relatives, residing in the towns named below. You will

also receive a club of ten new subscribers from one of my neighbors. I send thus early that I may not lose a single number. I would not be without your paper next year if it cost me \$100. I will keep an account, and a year hence send you the result of my profits or losses from reading it. I have no losses to report this year.

A NEW-JERSEY FARMER.
MIDDLESEX Co., N. J. Dec. 15, 1854.

We thank our friend for the above items. From other sources we have encouraging letters of like character. We shall greatly extend our "Farm Notes" the coming year, and do our part to make farmers more acquainted with each other.

For the American Agriculturist.

REPORTS OF FARM EXPERIMENTS.

VARIETIES OF WHEAT, MANURING, ETC.

I wish to report through your invaluable journal the way I manured a certain piece of land and the result obtained. The soil is mostly composed of red sand, and dry with the exception of a small corner, which is flat and of a more compact nature. The rest has a gradual descent. Previous to the spring of 1852, it was in grass for several successive years, and producing only about half of a ton of hay per acre. In the spring of 1852 I turned over the sod to about the depth of six or eight inches. I sowed it with oats, and only obtained an indifferent crop. In the fall of 1852, I hauled decomposed manure on part of it, but did not get it spread. In the spring of 1853, I finished the remainder with unrotted stable manure, applying it at the rate of fifty (twenty-five bushel) loads to the acre. The land was plowed but once to about the depth of ten or eleven inches. The result was a good crop of potatoes, though they rotted very badly, but much worse when the unrotted manure was applied.

Last spring, on the thirteenth day of May, I plowed part of it to the depth of ten or eleven inches, and sowed it with black sea wheat on the seventeenth of the same month. The result was a poor crop of straw and the grain about half destroyed with the wheat midge. The remainder I plowed the thirtieth day of May, about eight or ten inches deep; part I sowed with black sea wheat, part with red bald wheat, part with bald barley, and the remainder with peas; (the barley and peas were on the old manure). The result was a very fair crop of wheat straw, some spots stout and some middling, producing as much again straw to the acre as the first piece. The black sea was exempt from the wheat midge, and the red bald nearly so. The latter ripened a few days earlier than the other. The barley furnished only a middling crop of straw, but well filled. The peas a good crop. The above was sown on the last day of May.

I must not omit that, when sowing the barley, I missed a small spot, and another bit, on the wet corner of the field, I sowed too thin. On the tenth day of June, I sowed both these spots. The result was that both of them grew fully three times as much straw as the other adjoining, and ripened almost as soon as the other. I can not account for the difference of the two pieces of wheat, except that the former was plowed a little deeper and sown somewhat earlier. As respects the two small pieces of barley growing so much stouter than the rest, I think the reason was that the land got nicely warmed, being stirred with the harrow, so as to admit of the air to circulate through the warm soil. If you will give me your opinion on the above you will oblige a tiller of the soil. M. S.

Lower Coverdale, December 4, 1854.

There are fifty-three Sundays in 1854.

STORING HONEY FOR MARKET.

FAIRS, PREMIUMS, ETC.

MR. EDITOR: I can readily appreciate the difficulties and perplexities that committees of awards have to encounter, more especially when they are but partially acquainted with the subject or matter of which they are to judge. But few exhibitors are willing to present an article that, in their own estimation, is inferior to others of the same class—all can not be best. Consequently, when an impartial judgment is passed, there must be many disappointments; censure and accusations follow, even when an honest desire for justice has been observed. Notwithstanding all this, I must beg leave to differ in one instance from a committee of our State fair, and risk the fate of a grumbler. I am favored by the peculiar nature of the article beyond most exhibitors, because I can show facts that *should* lead to a different judgment. Therefore, after making all due allowance for partiality in favor of self, I cannot school myself into the belief that my name should be at the bottom of the list. I find in the "Journal of the New-York State Agricultural Society" for Oct., 1854, the awards on honey as follows, (but three lots on exhibition): Henry Eddy, North Bridgewater, Mass., best 20 lbs.; James Curtis, Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y., 2nd best; M. Quinby Palatine Church, N. Y., 3rd best.* There you see where the "shoe pinches." It squeezes the harder because I had presumed to know as much about honey as any apiarian in the State, (taking the supposition for a fact, that I have raised the most). When the manufacturer exhibits a superior article of cloth, or the dairyman his extra quality butter, and receives his premiums for superior skill, what is it for? Does it not emphatically say to others, "Go thou and do likewise"—make an article like it as nearly as possible? But how is it respecting this premium honey? First premium (six specimens) was stored in wood boxes, and glass laid over the top, or rather bottom—the honey brown. Now during the twenty-five years that I have sold honey, I have always found the brown honey ranging lower, from five to twelve cents, than the white. Yet I have occasionally found a customer—perhaps one in a hundred—who preferred it to the white. This is a matter of taste. Some will prefer brown bread, brown sugar, &c.; yet the majority choose to have these things light color, as well as honey. Second premium (two specimens) the honey was white, of a superior quality—but one specimen was stored in a tall glass jar with an oval top very pretty for exhibition, but impractical as a market article; the cost of the jar would exclude it. The other, a wood box—the honey beautiful and well suited for market, yet not at the highest price. I found a difference the present season of seven cents per lb. with the same quality of honey in wood and glass boxes. Third premium (three specimens) honey white, superior, &c.; but what added to its value as a market article, was the superior packages—boxes with glass sides—top and bottom wood, and in size suitable for small families, each comb of proper size to come to the table, and could be taken from the box without breaking a cell of the others; while from specimens number one and two it would be impossible to get a suitable piece without dividing combs, causing the honey to drip over that remaining, giving it a soiled appearance, together with a chance of its being wasted. Now the criterion by which I am disposed, in this case, to judge the quality of the article, is its *market* value, (not committee judgment). I have taken to market this season over 11,000 lbs.* Sold most of it to one dealer (in Washington

* Mr. L. Thorm, No. 5, Washington Market, was the buyer, and will verify these statements.

market, New-York), for which he paid me near \$2,000 (\$1,983). The price for that stored like number three, sold *seven cents per lb. above that of precisely the same quality in wood boxes, and nine cents above the brown.* What do these facts show? Would that committee advise me, or any one else, to raise the *best quality* which sells nine cents less than the committee's third quality, or at seven cents less than their second quality. The difference in my pocket would have been hundreds of dollars, instead of a few cents or shillings.

Notwithstanding I may have failed to show an error in the committee, still I am desirous to have the bee-keeping readers of your paper protected from erroneous impressions, that they may have their surplus honey stored in accordance with its destination; that of the greatest market value is not the kind for the fair.

M. QUINBY,
Author of *Mysteries of Bee Keeping*,
Palatine Church, Montgomery Co., N. Y., Dec. 1854.

For the American Agriculturist.

PROFIT OF CROPS—WEEDS—CISTERNS, &C.

OFTEN and again has a word of advice been given to the farmer and gardener, and as often been disregarded—nay, in our own experience we find it easier to give than to take advice. Still, there is no harm in trying to aid each other, if in this manner we can determine the best method of doing things, and how to make the most out of a limited capital.

Now, as the winter has fairly set in, there is some little leisure for the mind, and this is the time when the sharp, calculating brains of our utilitarian people may cast up a few figures. We speak from experience when we say, that it is no difficult thing to obtain from \$400 to \$500 clear profit from an acre of ground, per year.

And, in the first place, let us suppose that an acre of land has been well plowed and manured, or is in good heart from a previous crop of potatoes, celery, &c. Suppose now that, at the 1st of March, this land is planted with early cabbages, each standing eighteen inches apart. How many will it produce? And considering that this crop will be off by the 1st of August, how many heads of celery can be produced from the same ground, with extra manure, allowing the rows four feet, and the roots eighteen inches, apart.

Estimate the cabbages at \$4 per hundred, and the celery at two cents each, and if we mistake not, the reckoner will be surprised at the return profit. Of course the necessary labor, manure &c., should be taken into account.

Again, suppose half an acre has been occupied through the winter with spinach, and that immediately after the breaking up of frost, a half be sown with radishes, and the remainder be planted with lettuce. There will then be a large market value produced and out of the way by the time tomatoes can be planted, which continue bearing through the season. Here are two examples to show how an acre of land may be successfully cropped, leaving the calculation to be worked out by the reader. Suffice it to say, that the profit will not be less than that asserted above, as those croakers will find who consider \$50 or a \$100, the highest they can get. It must be remembered, however, that these results can not be obtained without good culture, which, if given, will yield quadruple profits. Surely the matter is worth a trial.

Another matter of consideration, is the difference it will make to the pocket, whether the crop be carefully weeded or not. Judging from the freedom with which they luxuriate on many farms, one would suppose, unless experience taught him otherwise,

that the greatest abundance of weeds was necessary to protect our marketable commodities, and make them tender. Now it happens that a handy laborer, with a good hoe, will go over an acre of cropped land in three days when the weeds are small; but if allowed to attain any size, they will not only hide the crop, but acquire such firm foothold as to make it almost impossible to dislodge them; and then not without bringing away much of the earth, and nourishment intended for the plants. Besides, the labor required to remove them will be many times greater, without yielding in the end more than half as large a crop. Here is another calculation to make, and the time employed in computing it will not be lost.

Again, all organic material in the neighborhood of a homestead becomes a manure more or less fertilizing. How much of nature's decomposition is continually going on; how many gallons of urine and drainings are constantly running away from decayed manure-heaps, and cow-houses. Now, a covered, water-proof cess-pool, or cistern, will collect material enough the first year to pay expenses, and all after will be clear gain. Here is another item which, if not a direct profit, is so much saved, and remember Ben Franklin's maxim, "a penny saved is twice earned."

If any one is disposed to doubt the truth of these remarks, let him sit down and reckon on the product on the debtor's side, and the \$100 per acre profit on the other side, and see how much he will have left for investment, or to pay off bad debts, of which too many have to complain.

ECONOMY IN THE CONSUMPTION OF THE TURNIP CROP, BY USING THE TURNIP CUTTER.

IN a season like the present, when the yield of the turnips is deficient in many parts of Great Britain, the following extracts will be found more than ordinarily interesting:

The advantage of using the turnip cutter is two-fold; saving the teeth of old ewes, for which the Swedish turnips especially are too hard; saving the waste of this valuable root, which, where partially scooped out by the sheep, is rolled and trampled about with great waste. The economy effected by this machine has been stated to be no less than one-third of the whole produce. If it be taken, however, at only a fourth or fifth, why, it may be asked, has not every farm in the country been long since furnished with this cheap apparatus? So says Mr. Pusey, in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal, on English agriculture, 1840.

I have endeavored to ascertain the profit of turnip cutting. If, of two lots of lambs, the one received, during winter, cut turnips, and the other uncut turnips, the fold with cut turnips would be worth twenty per cent more than the other fold. The former would sell for forty shilling a head if the latter fetched thirty-two shillings, and the cost of cutting would be one shilling per head, leaving seven shillings clear profit upon one sheep. If this statement had been made by an amateur agriculturist, one would have been rather skeptical. It was given to me word for word by two experienced practical farmers; and I only write it down from their mouths for the consideration of their brethren in any benighted districts of England, or even Scotland, if such yet there be. Let them consider that seven shilling per sheep upon turnips comes to seventy shillings per acre upon the turnip crop, nearly the average rent of land for four years' course till the turnip comes round again. And what is the investment of capital? Five pounds for one best Banbury turnip

cutter, which will last for five years. We ought to hear no more of the extravagance of high farming. Your real spendthrift farmer is the man—penny wise and pound foolish—who gives whole turnips to his tegs. So says Mr. Pusey's Paper "On the Progress of Agricultural Knowledge during the last eight years." R. A. S. Journal, 1850, page, 430.

A PICTURE—NOT UNCOMMON.

Up in the orchard,
Down in the lane—
Hunted all over,
Hunted in vain
For the asses which wandered—
The oxen, I mean;
(Was thinking of Saul
And the men of Beth-shean;)
Wish they'd "got mired,"
Or that they had broke
Their necks when they twisted
Them out of the yoke.

They always loved clover
Far more than their yokes,
First time they broke over
Should've put on their pokes.
All comes of improving
The lessons we'd taught them,
Late to think of it now,
In vain having sought them.

Hopples and fetters
For the unruly "critters"
That will not stay put;
But Saul he found one thing,
And we have found something—
Beetles, wedges, and glut,
Just where they left them
When last splitting rails,
When they snatched up their guns
And put after the quails.

Hogs in the garden,
Cows in the corn—
Bumble-bees building
Their nests in the barn;
Hang the "low fences,"
Teaching cattle to jump!
Gates off their hinges—
Leaky old pump!
Candles too slender
To see by—the bats
That come through the window
For lack of more hats.

"Taters" few in a hill,
And dwarfish at that,
And half of them wasted
'Tween the "girl" and the rat;
Owing to planting
Wrong time of the "moon,"
To late with them last year,
This year too soon.

Children in tatters,
Don't know how to spell;
Wife in tears always,
There's nothing goes well.
Swine with their yokes on—
Kine with their pokes on—
Quite a sight d'ye see?
Raw-boned and long-necked—
But what could you expect
From such farmers as we?
Or, what would you give,
The secret to know?
'Tis writ on the face
Of the rum-cask below.

Journal of Commerce.]

PETER.

THE editor of the Bedford Inquirer requests his agricultural subscribers who contracted, two years ago, to pay four bushels of wheat for their annual subscription to his paper, to "bring on the grain." Wheat was then selling at fifty cents a bushel. Now that it has risen to two dollars per bushel, they are slow about coming forward. Eight dollars a year for a single subscription to a weekly paper, seems a pretty high figure—yet "a bargain is a bargain."

THE DIGGING FORK.

The following testimony to the value of this implement we clip from the Rockingham (Va.) Register. It is well worthy of perusal. Mr. Ruffner will please accept our thanks for the kindly notice of the *American Agriculturist* incidentally introduced.

An experience of one season in the use of this implement, impresses me so much as to its being an improvement on the common spade, that I am disposed to recommend it for trial to all who have farms or gardens. It strikes me as promising more for the strained backs of delvers than all the lotions of the apothecary. Every body knows that "spading" is about the most laborious of all the methods of loosening and pulverizing the soil, and this is perhaps one reason why farmers work their fields better than they do their gardens.

Seeing one or two notices of this digging fork or spade-fork, last Spring, in the *American Agriculturist*, (a most admirable paper, by the way,) I sent for one, and used it all the summer and fall with great satisfaction. An Irishman who commonly worked my garden, had early been so disgusted with the common American spade, that he had imported an Irish spade, which is a long, narrow, fish-tailed piece of steel, very efficient in hard ground, and which the owner was in the habit of extolling as beyond rivalry. When I got the fork, he regarded it with a look of contempt, and took it in hand with some reluctance. But in less than one day Tommy had actually acknowledged the defeat, and the Irish spade has scarcely been touched from that day to this.

In England, where tools are much more nicely adapted to the various operations of husbandry than in this country, they use at least eight different sizes of these digging forks, with from three to eight prongs, and apply them to a great variety of uses. The right of invention is claimed in both New and Old England. The fork brought on for me by Mr. Bruffey, is made of a solid piece of elastic steel, with four flattened prongs, and a handle about as long as that of a common spade, resembling in general appearance, one style of the dung-fork. The first thing that strikes you about it is its lightness, being (I should think) not more than three-fourths the weight of the spade. But in using it, you see that it does its work with so much ease that it need never give way in ordinary service. And it is an important consideration, that the laborer in a day's work will turn over the same amount of soil, while in the difference between the implements, he lifts several tons less weight than when using the spade. Indeed, I doubt not, he would with the same exertion almost double the result of his days work, going over more ground and pulverizing it far better. Another advantage in the fork, is in its avoiding many of the stones, chips, roots and other impediments in the soil, which would often arrest the spade entirely; and when a prong encounters a stone, it will usually spring around it and throw it out to the surface. In digging ground foul with weeds, the fork is very useful in sifting out the weeds, so that they will not take root again. It is, too, the most admirable of all implements for digging garden roots. I can believe a statement I saw in the *American Agriculturist*, of an English laborer, who dug an acre of potatoes in seven days with the fork, scattering the potatoes out on one side of the row, while he dexterously threw the vines on the other side, leaving his two little children to gather after him, he not putting his hand to them at all. I had a pretty large potato patch this year, and I observed the digging fork was the only tool called into requisition when they were to be dug. This

kind of fork is used in England also, for throwing up their finely rotted manure, and for digging ditches. In very loose soils the fork might not in all cases answer, but it would suit our valley soils admirably; and I should think the high numbers, which are the strongest, would serve forground which now has to be dug with the mattock.

Messrs. Editors, if you have ever undertaken to dig in your gardens with the common spade, you will not consider this communication too long for its subject.

WM. H. RUFFNER.

CORN AND CATTLE TRADE OF CHICAGO, ILL.

I send you a report of Chicago and its trade for 1853, which will be found well worth your perusal. Some extracts from it would be as useful as entertaining. The town is situated on the south-west extremity of Lake Michigan, on a river that divides, one branch running north and the other south, giving nine miles of ship room as smooth as any dock. The river is crossed by several swivel-bridges, to allow the shipping to pass, and the city has advertised for contracts for a tunnel. The river and its branches average 300 to 500 feet wide. Though 1,600 miles from the ocean, ships can load here, and go direct to Europe via the St. Lawrence. The quantity of produce of 1853, 1854, and the present crop, will be—

| | 1852-'3. | 1853-'4. | 1854-'5 | Prices this |
|-------------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Bbls. | Bbls. | Estimated Bbls. | day. |
| Flour..... | 134,000 | 160,000 | 180,000 | \$6 50 to \$8 00 |
| Wheat..... | 210,875 | 270,000 | 300,000 | 1 15 to 60¢ |
| Corn..... | 336,125 | 500,000 | 550,000 | 50 " |
| Oats..... | 234,375 | 200,000 | 250,000 | 29 to 32¢ |
| Rye..... | 10,750 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 80 to 85¢ |
| Barley..... | 24,000 | 30,000 | 35,000 | 1 00 " |

This will give for shipment, on the opening of the navigation, nearly 1,400,000 qrs.; but as the Middle and Eastern States had not within one-third of an average of corn, and scarcely of wheat, a good deal of this may be required on this side. The corn crops in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and northern parts of Indiana, of which this is the chief market, are about an average. The supplies are coming so rapidly to market (by rail and canal) that the stores are full, and all the ships in harbor, about 56, chartered at high rates for Buffalo and Oswego.

Last year 64,500 barrels of beef were packed; this year the quantity will be about 7,000 tierces and 55,000 barrels, of excellent quality, especially that made up for the Government contract; the cattle of which would average 70lbs. per quarter. The packer of this bought 1,400 head from Mr. Funk, and 700 from his brother. These gentlemen farm 17,000 and 10,000 acres of prairie land, and are preparing for next year 2,000 and 1,000 head of cattle. This is the largest beef market in the United States. 52,819 hogs were packed last season; this year they expect to put up 70,000.

The present prices of mess beef are \$12 50, and mess pork \$12 50 per barrel; tallow, 12c.; green hides, 4 to 5c.; lard, 9½ to 10c.; butter, 12 to 14c. per lb.

Three-quarters of the shipments at present go to New-York via Buffalo and the Erie railway; the remainder to Boston via Oswego and Ogdensburg; but next year, if there was accommodation of propellers and sailing vessels, the chief part of the goods to and from Europe would take the river St. Lawrence, its natural route, as being cheaper and more rapid. This is the terminus of 10 trunk and 6 branch lines, finished, running 2,000 miles; next year, 4,000 are to be finished. Present population, 76,000. From 4,000 to 5,000 pass through daily to the West.

Chicago, Illinois, Nov. 11, 1854.

W. K. [Mark Lane Ex.

THE GREATEST GRAIN PORT IN THE WORLD.

In the progress of our city and of the west generally, facts of the most astounding character not unfrequently come upon us unawares, and before we are prepared for them. If any one had asked us two days ago which of the great grain depots of the world, (depots at which grain is collected directly from the producer,) was the largest, we probably would have named half-a-dozen before hitting upon the right one. Our attention was called to this subject yesterday by a gentleman engaged in the grain business in this city, and with his assistance, we have given it a thorough investigation, the result which, greatly to our surprise and gratification, establishes the supremacy of Chicago as a grain port over all the other ports in the world! That there may be no ground for incredulity, we proceed to lay before our readers the statistics, gleaned from authentic sources, which confirm this statement. In the table which follows we have in all cases reduced flour to its equivalent in wheat, estimating five bushels of the latter to one of the former. The exports from the European ports are an average for a series of years—those of St. Louis for the year 1853, those of Chicago and Milwaukee, for the current year, and those of New-York for the past eleven months of the same year. With these explanations we invite attention to the following table:

| | Wheat. | Ind. Corn. | Oats, Rye | Total. |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | bush. | bush. | & Barley. | bush. |
| Odessa..... | 5,600,000 | | 1,440,000 | 7,040,000 |
| Galatz & Irbelia.. | 2,400,000 | 5,600,000 | 320,000 | 8,320,000 |
| Dantzic..... | 3,080,000 | | 1,328,000 | 4,408,000 |
| St. Petersburg..... | all kinds. | | | 7,200,000 |
| Archangel..... | all kinds. | | | 2,528,900 |
| Riga..... | all kinds. | | | 4,000,000 |
| St. Louis..... | 3,082,000 | 918,358 | 1,081,078 | 5,081,436 |
| Milwaukee..... | 2,723,574 | 182,937 | 941,650 | 3,747,161 |
| New-York..... | 4,802,452 | 3,027,883 | | 9,430,335 |
| Chicago..... | 2,946,924 | 6,745,588 | 4,024,216 | 13,726,728 |

By comparing the exports of the different places mentioned in the above table, it will be seen that the grain exports of Chicago exceed those of New-York by 4,296,393 bushels, those of St. Louis by more than two hundred and fifty per cent—those of Milwaukee nearly four hundred per cent. Turning to the great granaries of Europe, Chicago nearly doubles St. Petersburg, the largest, and exceeds Galatz and Irbelia, combined, 5,406,727 bushels.

Twenty years ago Chicago, as well as most of the country from whence she now draws her immense supplies of bread-stuffs, imported both flour and meat for home consumption—now, she is the largest primary grain depot in the world, and she leads all other ports of the world, also, in the quantity and quality of her beef exports! We say largest primary grain depot in the world, because it can not be denied that New-York, Liverpool, and some other great commercial centers, receive more breadstuffs than Chicago does in the course of the year, but none of them will compare with her, as we have shown above, in the amount collected from the hands of the producers. [Chicago Press.

A Big Egg.—At a recent sitting of the Paris Academy of Science, Mr. Geoffroy St. Hilaire gave an account of some portions of an egg of the Epyornis, the gigantic and very rare bird of Madagascar, which have recently been conveyed to France. These portions show, he stated, the egg to have been of such a size as to be capable of containing about ten English quarts. The egg was considerably larger than that which now exists in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes, and which can only contain about eight and three-fourth quarts. The learned naturalist also gave an account of his examination of some bones of the bird, which had been presented to him; but some of them he was

obliged to reject as doubtful, and others were not sufficiently numerous to enable him to state precisely the conformation of the bird; they, however, showed that it differs considerably from the ostrich.

For the American Agriculturist.
CORN ON GRASS LANDS, ETC.

In your issue of December 13th, instant, some practical suggestions are given by a correspondent in relation to growing corn on old grass lands. The plowing of such lands in the autumn or beginning of winter I have practised with success. Old grass leys in this region, after having been used as meadows for several years, are apt to become grubby. Frosty nights, generally following after plowing in mild days in December, arrest the retreat of the grubs and destroy them, an advantage which your correspondent does not enumerate. His mode of applying manure and its supposed advantages, does not so well accord with my experience, which, in growing corn, has fully confirmed me in the theory advanced by the late Judge Buel. All the coarse, unfermented manure from my yards is plowed deep under the sward. After such treatment I can safely apply a "shovel full" of suitable manure in the hill. Without this dressing upon the sward the crop, on most of our lands, would be injured by so large an application of manure in the hill.

I have seen frequent instances of disappointment among farmers here, by manuring as your correspondent recommends, the crop giving great promise in the early part of the season, but failing just at the period when the earing process commenced. Special manures, in such cases, may be applied to the surface in time to remedy the difficulty; but this is often deferred until too late. By applying less than 45 loads of manure broadcast, and plowing it under the sand, manuring slightly in the hill, and applying two or three fish to each, after the first hoeing, we have succeeded in growing on our gravelly soil 90 bushels of corn per acre.

In making the above remarks it should be remembered that the condition and nature of the soil must, in a very considerable degree, qualify and limit their application. In this locality meadows after being mowed five or six years and depastured more or less, being broken up, require a very liberal manuring to produce well afterwards.

A word more about corn. In your remarks on the effects of the drouth, August 23, page 376, you state that "When corn has become so well grown as to shade the ground on which it is growing, it suffers less in drouth than any other crop." My experience has led me to an opposite conclusion. In a course of thirty years' practice, I have never known a drouth to be otherwise than destructive to the corn crop, when it commenced early enough to be severe at that particular stage of advancement which you speak of. On the contrary, here corn has often been so retarded and pinched by early and long continued drouth as to make the farmer despair of his crop; and yet at a very advanced season, the stalks being still small and dwarfish, and the earing but just commenced, a heavy rain had often surprised the cultivator by its renovating effects in producing nearly an average yield. Not so this year. Our corn fields showed well grown stalks at the usual season, and yet they will not average half the usual crop, in consequence of the drouth. The best remedy, could we anticipate such seasons, would be thin planting, by having more width between the rows, or fewer stalks in the hill, without regard to the question of shade—the degree

of moisture carried off by the leaves being of much more consequence.

RICHARD M. CONKLIN.
COLD SPRING HARBOR, L. I., Dec. 21, 1854

TO KEEP SILK.

SILK articles should not be kept folded in white paper, as the chloride of lime used in bleaching the paper will probably impair the color of the silk. Brown or blue paper is better; the yellowish, smooth, Indian paper is best of all. Silk intended for dress should not be kept long in the house before it is made up, as lying in the folds will have a tendency to impair its durability by causing it to cut or split, particularly if the silk has been thickened by gum.

Thread lace veils are very easily cut; satin and velvet being soft are not easily cut, but dresses of velvet should not be laid by with any weight above them. If the knap of thin velvet is laid down, it is not possible to raise it up again. Hard silk should never be wrinkled, because the thread is easily broken in the crease, and it never can be rectified. The way to take the wrinkles out of silk scarfs or handkerchiefs, is to moisten the surface evenly with a sponge and some weak glue, and then pin the silk with some toilet pins around the shelves on a mattress or feather bed, taking pains to draw out the silk as tight as possible. When dry the wrinkles will have disappeared. The reason of this is obvious to every person. It is a nice job to dress light colored silk, and few should try it. Some silk articles should be moistened with weak glue or gum-water, and the wrinkles ironed out by a hot flat-iron on the wrong side.

Scientific American.

THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE NIAGARA.—It is calculated that the suspension bridge at Niagara Falls will be finished by the first of January next. The following dimensions will give an idea of the magnitude and strength of this incomparable bridge: Length of distance from the center of the towers, 822 feet; height of the towers above the rocks on the New-York side, 80 feet; on the Canada side 37 feet; height to the railroad track, 60 feet; height of the track above the water, 260 feet; number of wire cables, four feet; diameter of cables, 10 inches, number of strands of No. 9 wire in cable, 3,659 inches; total power of the cables, 12,400 tons; weight of the entire bridge, 750 tons; weight of the bridge and of the heaviest load that can be put on it, 1,250 tons; greatest weight which the cables and supports can bear, 7,300 tons.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—A cow was slaughtered on Saturday, Dec. 2d, on the farm of Andrew McMurray, in Byram, and imbedded in her heart was found a cut nail, over two inches long. The heart appeared to be considerably decayed in consequence. The animal to appearance had always been healthy. [Sussex Herald.

LOST TIME.—Some Yankee makes the following ingenious calculation:

"It is a singular fact, that if a man travel round the earth in an eastwardly direction, he will find, on returning to the place of departure, he has gained one whole day; the reverse of this proposition being true also, it follows that the Yankees who are always traveling to the west, do not live as long by a day or two, as they would if they had staid at home; and supposing each Yankee's time to be worth \$1 50 per day, it may be easily shown that a considerable amount of money is annually lost by their roving disposition."

Horticultural Department.

HOVEY'S MAGAZINE FOR DECEMBER.

THE editor improves the close of the 20th year of his labors, to magnify his office a little, in a social chit-chat with his readers. He claims for his magazine a longer and more prosperous career than that of any kindred publication, in this country or in Europe. He records, with pride and pleasure, the long-continued friendship of gentlemen so thoroughly imbued with a love of gardening pursuits, as the late late Hon. John Lowell, Gen. H. A. S. Dearbon, Robt. Manning, A. J. Downing, Judge Buel, J. E. Teschmacher, Wm. Oakes, and Capt. Lovett—through whose kindness he has been enabled to please and instruct his readers.

He looks with great satisfaction upon the improvements in horticulture and rural taste that have grown up in twenty years. Not an American seedling strawberry had then been brought before the public, and but three or four cherries, and the list of pears was very limited. To look over the catalogue of these fruits now, and see what extensive additions have been made to them, by the accession of foreign varieties and native seedlings, must astonish even those who have been tolerably close observers of the annual progress of horticultural science in America. Many of his readers will share with him the high satisfaction with which he looks upon these tokens of progress.

He claims for his magazine the honor of having given an impulse to the many rural improvements in the suburbs of Boston, which make that vicinity unrivaled in America; and of having helped very much the labors of authors, who have written books upon fruits. He pleads guilty to the soft impeachment of having got up a "pear mania," and points with great satisfaction to the contrast between fairs twenty years ago, showing fifty varieties of this fruit, and fairs now showing three hundred.

Great credit is no doubt due to the labors of this magazine, so long without a cotemporary in its sphere of influence, and will share its Editor's enthusiasm in the contemplation of rural improvements. The vicinity of all our large cities is dotted over with beautiful villas and elegant grounds; and the homes of our rural population are more and more significant of comfort and increasing taste. Gardening, both as a practical art and an art of taste, is moving forward with a rapid pace in every direction throughout our land. With a climate and soil scarcely surpassed by any temperate region, and with accumulating wealth and knowledge, there is no obstacle in the way of the greatest enjoyment of all the blessings which a bountiful Providence has placed within our reach.

Wilson Flagg has a characteristic article on "Sounds from Inanimate Nature"—a mixture of philosophy and poetry very pleasant to read, and more profitable for the cultivation of the mind than the soil.

The question, "Can our Native Grapes be

Improved?" is answered negatively. The mistake of Emerson in supposing that he had found a Summer White grape, decidedly superior to the Isabella, is pointed out, and pomologists are counseled to look to hybridization as the only source of improvement in our native vines. Taste is a thing of education, and it is not at all surprising that men of literary distinction, not particularly skilled in fruit-growing, should advance the opinion that some tolerable grape was better than the Isabella, or that this latter was superior to any of the foreign varieties grown under glass. Time, and better acquaintance with fruits, generally corrects these prejudices of early education.

In his pomological gossip the editor gives a sort of summing-up of the Concord grape controversy, in which he repeats himself on former occasions, corrects Mr. Barry in some particulars, and sticks to his old position with a good deal of tenacity. The Concord grape is undoubtedly "some pumpkins;" and as the case has been well argued and summed up, we are content to leave the decision with the public.

The Wilkinson and Lewis pears are briefly noticed, and a word is said upon "Perpetual Strawberries." The Editor thinks we must have the climate of the South to give us the results of Mr. Peabody's strawberry garden.

"New English Strawberries" are noticed as very superior, and some of them larger than the British Queen, upon which we are to hear again when they have had further trial.

The following excellent sample of Johnny Bull is taken from the Gardeners' Chronicle:

"BLACKBERRIES.—We do not know what is meant by the New Rochelle blackberry. Many kinds of the *Rubus* inhabit the United States, and are said to be good for the table; but they have never found favor in Europe, where men's tastes are more refined (!) than in the New World."

Mr. Pardee's Work on the Strawberry is reviewed, in which the editor dissents from Mr. Pardee's views of special manures, and recommends stable-mannure or guano.

The Editor of the Granite Farmer commends the "Old Colony Sweet Corn" as the sweetest and best table-corn ever cultivated—far better than Stowell's, which is admitted to be very good. We have cultivated Stowell's for four seasons, and tried the Old Colony for the first time last season. We had it once upon the table, and it proved so insipid that we never picked another ear. So editors must disagree in their tastes. The Stowell, taking all things into consideration, is the best sweet corn we have ever met with. Dried for winter use it surpasses any variety we have ever tasted. We, however, are not incorrigible in our opinion about the Old Colony, and if the editor of the Granite Farmer, or Mr. Hovey, will send us a sample of the seed, we will give it another trial. Possibly we had not a genuine variety.

There is an interesting article on the "Profits of Pear-growing in Belgium," which we hope to transfer to our pages

STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

THE strawberry is, and deserves to be, the most extensively cultivated of all our small fruits. Productive, easily cultivated, and equal to any fruit in flavor and general usefulness, it would be strange if it were not familiar to every gardener. Neither has it lacked notice in horticultural literature. Much valuable information has of late years been disseminated relating to its history and management; and although there are various opinions held, with reference to its botanical distinctions, its treatment as a fruit-bearing plant is reduced to a matter of certainty. On the former question it is not my present purpose to enter, but beg to offer a few remarks in regard to its general treatment and culture.

When we consider the habit of growth, season of ripening, and permanency of the strawberry plant, we are led to the conclusion that the soil intended for its growth should receive the most thorough preparation. Its dwarf, spreading growth is not favorable for after improvement of the soil, farther than what can be derived from applications on the surface. Ripening at a period which, in nine seasons out of ten, is characterized by deficient moisture in the soil, and extreme atmospheric aridity, suggests the idea of allowing the roots a deep and rich medium, where they can luxuriate uninfluenced by surface temperature. And when we further consider that a strawberry plantation should produce at least three crops before removal, we may safely aver that the preparation of the soil in the first instance is of the utmost importance.

This leads us again to the foundation of all permanent improvement—*subsoil culture*. Trench the soil at least 18 inches in depth, incorporating a heavy dressing of well-decomposed manure, and if the soil is clayey, or adhesive in its nature, an application of charcoal dust will be highly beneficial. As a corrective for clayey soils, charcoal can not be too highly recommended. In a physical view, it renders the soil porous and permeable to gases, and chemically, its absorbing and disinfecting properties are equally valuable, the amount of ammonia and other gases which it is capable of absorbing giving it a value as a fertilizer. On a soil thus treated, there will be no danger of a defective, half-ripened crop, or the plants burning out, as frequently happens, on poor shallow soil, for although the strawberry is a plant of small structure, I have traced the roots, in favorable soils, a distance of three feet from the surface.

There are various methods of arranging the plants. They may be placed in rows thirty inches apart, the plants standing one foot from each other in the row, or, planted in beds, six feet wide, thus admitting of four rows, the plants fifteen inches apart. Some strong growing varieties require more space than the above to attain their greatest perfection, and such as Boston Pine, Goliath, &c., do best in hills thirty inches, or three feet apart. The best method for garden culture is the first-mentioned, keeping between the rows clear of weeds and runners, unless the latter are required for a new plantation, which, on the principle of rotative cropping, should be done every third or fourth year, as the plants seem to retain their vigor and fruitfulness.

Young plantations may be set out at various seasons; either at midsummer, fall, or early spring. As early as young plants can be obtained, say about the last of July or beginning of August, is the time for midsummer planting. Choosing a cloudy day for the operation, the plants immediately on removal should have their roots preserved by dipping them in a puddle. This system of

encasing roots with a coat of mud, is very useful and efficient, and may be practised in the transplanting of all young plants in dry weather, as it obviates, in a great degree, subsequent attention in watering, a thin covering of short grass, or litter of any description, should now be laid about the young plants. Planted thus early, a good growth will follow, the plants mature buds before winter, and produce an average crop the following season.

Fall planting is frequently practised, and if the plants are set out early, not later than the middle of September, they will root and get somewhat established before winter; but the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil during winter, throws them out of the ground, unless the soil is of a sandy nature and protected with a covering of litter. Instead of planting them out permanently in the fall, it is more advisable to place them a few inches apart in a sheltered spot, where they can be preserved by a covering of leaves all winter, and planted out early in spring. This practice not only affords time for a suitable and thorough preparation of the ground, but the plants being carefully lifted with small balls of earth to their roots, will produce a more uniform and vigorous plantation, than those permanently planted out in the fall.

Mulching is a very material consideration in strawberry culture, more particularly in spring and fall. Covering the ground between the plants with hay, leaves, &c., in spring, preserves the fruit while ripening, and retards the escape of moisture from the soil. In the fall a covering of short manure will serve the double purpose of enriching the soil and sheltering the plants during winter. Tan bark has been much recommended for this purpose, and has been pronounced a special manure for the strawberry. I have used it largely for many years, but have not discovered its utility as a manure; its protecting qualities can not be questioned, and may be usefully employed as a substitute—of partly decomposed leaves and stable-yard manure—for winter covering.

The long list of named varieties, and the constant additions to the list, renders it difficult to make a choice selection; some catalogues enumerate over 100 named sorts. Having tested at least half that number, I prefer, and would recommend the three following as combining all that has been attained in this fruit:

1. For flavor alone, Burr's Pine. 2. For size and flavor, Hovey's Seedling, and for size, M'Avoy's Superior. These with a few plants of the Cushing, or Buist's Prize, as fertilizers will leave little to be desired in the excellence of this valuable fruit.

Some time ago the horticultural world was thrown into a small state of excitement by the announcement that in New-Orleans they had a strawberry which produced a succession of crops during the summer. Plants of this variety soon found their way to the North, but, without exception, they have proved an entire failure. No doubt this peculiarity depended altogether upon the climate and treatment. I have frequently, by peculiar treatment, gathered two crops in one season from the same plants. Our strawberry season might be much prolonged, were means taken to irrigate the plants when necessary. This might easily be effected on sloping ground, by forming a series of slight terraces, the plants grown in narrow beds, somewhat elevated, leaving slight trenches between the rows of plants. These level platforms could then be saturated with water at pleasure, and communication being secured, the surplus water would descend from one to the other. The rain water falling on a dwelling house or barn, collected in a tank, would be found sufficient for an or-

dinary plantation, and there is no doubt, would amply repay all trouble, both in the quantity and quality of the produce.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS,
Landscape Gardener, Germantown.

REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.—The above appears to cover the whole ground relative to the practical culture of the strawberry; and the statement and directions are given in so plain and straightforward a way, as to be comprehended by every one. Mr. Saunders, of the firm of Meehan & Saunders, Landscape Gardeners and Nurserymen, whose grounds are directly opposite the fine mansion of Mr. Carpenter, on Germantown avenue—is a thoroughly practical man, and understands in all its ramifications, the culture of this valuable fruit. Hence his suggestions are founded upon practice, and are deserving of every consideration.

Germantown Telegraph.

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—We are indebted to Hon. Marshall P. Wilder for an early copy of the published proceedings of the last Annual meeting of this Society of Boston. Owing to an unusual press of correspondence and other business at this season, we have not yet had time to give this valuable report a careful perusal, but will do so at the earliest opportunity, and present a synopsis of the more important portions to our horticultural readers.

NEW-YORK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At the meeting of the Horticultural Society, on Monday evening, the following officers were elected:

President—WILSON G. HUNT.

Vice-Presidents—John Groshon, William W. Livermore, Abraham A. Leggett, Archibald Russell, H. M. Schieffelin.

Treasurer—Charles Place.

Recording Secretary—Peter B. Mead.

Corresponding Secretary—Dr. T. Knight.

Librarian—James Cheatham.

Finance Committee—Jacob C. Parsons, John Groshon, W. W. Livermore.

Library Committee—Peter B. Mead, Andrew Reid.

Premium Committee—Alexander Gordon, Isaac Buchanan.

Fruit Committee—Charles More, Thomas Hogg, W. S. Carpenter.

Committee on Flowers and Plants—J. E. Rauch, Thomas Notterville, David Scott.

Vegetable Committee—William Cranston, John Suttle, John S. Burgess.

Seed Committee—Caleb F. Lindsley, Edward Walker, John C. Hunter.

For the American Agriculturist.

THE FANCY PELARGONIUM.

Being a great admirer of this beautiful plant, I send you a few hints on the management of what may almost be called the perpetual pelargonium—flowering as it does, with proper treatment, all the year.

Plants started this and the previous month, will make a splendid display early in the spring, the flowers being varied with beautiful colors and delicate tints, which, together with its sweet foliage, make it a great favorite for bouquets. As this plant will stand almost any amount of heat without injury, and blossoms freely in a high temperature, it is easily and successfully forced. When the shoots have grown sufficiently long, pass a piece of string or matting around the pot close beneath the rim, and with matting tie the shoots down to it, at equal distances, so that in growing they may completely cover the edge of the pot; put sticks to those shoots which you wish to bring up to the middle of the plant.

By this treatment you obtain a dwarf, bushy and compact plant. When they have grown sufficiently, stop all the shoots at the same time, as, by that means, all the flowers will open at once, and present a splendid and gorgeous display, fitted either for the drawing room, conservatory, or greenhouse.

I here enumerate a dozen of the most distinct and beautiful varieties, with their colors:

Casandra—rich crimson and white.

Celestial—fine rosy lilac.

Empress—pure white, with lilac spots.

Lady-Hume Campbell—rich crimson, lower petals rose and white.

Caliban—rich mulberry, with white.

Gipsy Queen—pure white, with mulberry spots.

Resplendent—fine crimson and scarlet, with white.

Formosissimum—rosy crimson and violet.

Jenny Lind—rose and white.

Advancer—mulberry suffused with rose.

Richard Cobden—dark velvet and crimson.

Defiance—a rich glossy velvet.

Since these plants can be procured from the nurseries at a trifling expense, and easily propagated, I strongly recommend them to the skillful gardener, and to all lovers of floriculture, there being no more difficulty in cultivating these plants than the common geranium.

W. SUMMERSBEY.
Bellport, L. I., Dec. 1854.

ORIGIN OF VARIOUS PLANTS.

EVERY gentleman farmer ought to be somewhat acquainted with the origin and history of all ordinary plants and trees, so as to know their nature, country and condition. Such knowledge, besides being a great source of pleasure, and very desirable, will often enable him to explain phenomena in the habits of many plants that otherwise would appear inexplicable.

Wheat, although considered by some as a native of Sicily, originally came from the central table-land of Thibet, where it yet exists as a grass, with small, mealy seeds.

Rye exists wild in Siberia.

Barley exists wild in the mountains of Himalaya.

Oats were brought from North Africa.

Millet, one species is a native of India, another Egypt and Abyssinia.

Maize, Indian corn, is of native growth in America.

Rice was brought from South Africa, whence it was taken to India; and thence to Europe and America.

Peas are of unknown origin.

Vetches are natives of Germany.

The Garden Bean, from the East Indies.

Buckwheat came originally from Siberia and Turkey.

Cabbage grows wild in Sicily and Naples.

The Poppy was brought from the East.

The Sunflower from Peru.

Hops came to perfection as a wild flower in Germany.

Saffron came from Egypt.

The Onion is also a native of Egypt.

Horseradish from South Europe.

Tobacco is a native of Virginia, Tobago and California. Another species has also been found wild in Asia.

The Grasses are mostly native plants, and so are the Clovers, except Lucerne, which is a native of Sicily.

The Gourd is an Eastern plant.

The Potato is a well known native of Peru and Mexico.

Koriander grows wild near the Mediterranean.

Anise was brought from the Grecian Archipelago.

[Dollar Newspaper.]

American Agriculturist.

New-York, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

WE send this number to those of our old subscribers whose time expired some time since, but who, for some cause, have failed to renew. They will please consider this an invitation to renew at this time.

SOME of our readers will receive two copies this week. Will they please show the extra copy to a friend, and, by accompanying it with a kind word, make it the means of returning us at least one new name?

TWO DAYS LATER.

Our subscribers will hereafter receive the *American Agriculturist* two days later than formerly. It is the custom with most publishers to date their papers one to three days ahead of the actual day of mailing them. This gives the appearance of freshness to the news they contain. Heretofore we have printed the *Agriculturist* on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, and mailed it on Tuesday afternoon. But as the great cattle market day of this city—of which we wish to give a full report—has recently been changed from Monday to Wednesday, we shall henceforth go to press on Wednesday evening and mail on Thursday. The Prices Current and Markets, and other agricultural intelligence will now be made up to Wednesday; and as the Sabbath will not now immediately precede the last day of making up the paper, there will really be a gain of two days in time.

WHAT 52 NUMBERS WILL FURNISH.

FIFTY-TWO numbers of the *American Agriculturist* will furnish at least 300 large pages of agricultural matter of the very best character that can be written or gathered. To obtain this every agricultural paper, of any note in America or Europe, will be carefully examined, and the best and most practical articles will be selected and furnished to the readers of the *American Agriculturist*. The Editors will make frequent excursions into various parts of the country to examine and describe the exact practices of the most successful farmers on both a large and small scale.

104 pages of the best horticultural matter adapted to every class of gardeners; including a synopsis of the best American and foreign horticultural journals.

104 pages of general Editorials upon agricultural and other matters relating to the health and comfort of those cultivating the soil.

104 pages of "Scrap Book" which will be equal in character to the more pleasing pages of our most popular magazines.

52 careful reports of the exact state of the cattle, produce, and other markets. Will not this be worth the subscription price of the *American Agriculturist*?

SEVERAL communications are received and in type which will appear soon.

BARLEY.

How would barley answer in our climate? When is the proper time to sow it? What is the price per bushel? S. J. WHEELER, M.D.
St. Johns, Herford Co., N. C.

Barley may be grown in almost any climate, though it is most extensively cultivated in sections enjoying a medium temperature. We have raised it between 40° and 43° north latitude, and considered it a profitable summer crop. We have never tried it as a winter crop, though it is often thus cultivated. We have found it good for feeding swine till within two or three weeks of slaughtering them, finishing off with corn. We have also used it to considerable extent instead of oats, as a feed for working horses; usually we have boiled or ground it before feeding. Barley meal is excellent for mixing with chopped hay, straw, &c.

It may be sown as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry in the spring. It does well on a grass or sod turned over in the fall, or during an open winter. We have no positive information, but think that in North Carolina it should be sown as early as the 1st of April. The safest plan with this, as with all other crops in new localities, is to try a small plot for two or three seasons, sowing some portions earlier than others. There is no obvious reason why it should not be a profitable crop in the region of our correspondent. It is extensively cultivated in some of the warmest regions of Asia, Southern Europe, and Northern Africa. From 1½ to 2½ bushels of seed are put upon an acre. On ordinary soils 2 bushels, or less, is generally sufficient. It should not usually follow or precede other white grain crops: We have, however, had a good crop of wheat upon barley stubble. The soil should be well pulverized, and dry, and unless on very poor lands, farm-yard manures can not be very profitably applied.

The present quoted wholesale market price in this city is about \$1.20 per bushel. In small quantities, and for select seed, the price would be considerable higher than this.

SHEPHERD DOGS—THEIR UTILITY.

A gentleman writing from Onondaga County, to a friend in this city, says that snow fell to the depth of four feet or thereabouts, week before last, and that in the town of De Witt, a flock of ninety sheep was snowed under. The neighbors turned out *en masse* to hunt for the sheep, but after looking four or five days, were compelled to abandon the search.

Albany Register.

Had the owner of the above sheep possessed a well trained shepherd dog, he would probably have found the flock of sheep in half an hour. Strange it is that many extensive flock-masters do not keep one or more of these invaluable animals. They will save two or three hours' labor in driving a flock, and when overwhelmed by snow, may save an entire flock that might otherwise be lost.

Any good breed can be made first rate shepherd dogs by bringing the puppies up to suckle the ewes, and always keeping them with the flock. Thus reared, the dog knows only the sheep, and will remain with and

protect and manage them with the greatest faithfulness, kindness, and sagacity.

For the American Agriculturist

INQUIRIES ABOUT SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

I am much pleased to see the "pure crystallized sulphate of ammonia" advertised in your paper. Will not you, or some other competent person, give through the same paper, some *minute* directions about preparing and using it? By so doing you will doubtless confer as great a favor upon many of your numerous readers elsewhere, as on several friends in this place, who unite in the above request.

Will not some one confer a similar favor by advertising "Whale oil soap," and the price of the same? MECHANIC.

SOUTH NORWALK, Conn.

FROM the difficulty of procuring sulphate of ammonia there have been very few experiments tried with it in this country. The most convenient form of applying is to dissolve it in water—say a pound to three, four, or more gallons, and water the ground around the plants with a common sprinkler. Ammonia acts as a stimulant to most plants, and if applied in small quantities can hardly fail of benefiting them. It acts more especially upon the parts of plants growing above ground. Thus, if applied too freely to turnips, it will produce a disproportionate growth of top at the expense of the bulbs; while a small quantity will give the tops a start, and they will afterwards be better prepared to appropriate from the air carbonic acid to increase the roots. Take a water-pot and sprinkle a solution of sulphate of ammonia upon a poor meadow, marking out your name if you please, and you can very soon distinguish the exact outlines of the application by the green color and increased growth of the grass. Care should be taken not to apply this fertilizer too freely in the garden, since it is so powerful a stimulant that it may induce disproportionate growth in some parts of the plant. Let the application be made in small quantities at successive periods. Please make notes of experiments and let us have the results.

A SUPERB HERD OF SHORT HORNS.

WE have received a printed catalogue of the herd of Short Horn cattle kept by Mr. R. A. Alexander, of Midway, Woodford County, Ky. This herd now numbers about 120 head, and is probably the largest, and one of the very best, not only in America, but out of it.

Mr. Alexander has imported most of this herd, and has selected from the best stocks in England. Among others which have passed through this city for him, we were particularly pleased with the *Duchess of Athol*. She has immense breadth of loin, and is a grand cow throughout. Mr. A. has also a yearling heifer out of her, by the 3d Duke of Athol, which he calls *Duchess of Airdrie*. She is said to be very fine. He has also a superb bull calf out of the above, still in England.

Mr. A.'s herd embraces more of the pure Bates blood, we believe, than that of any other breeder out of the State of New-York. Any inferior bull calf in future breeding, it is his intention to make a steer of; all he will

then offer for sale will be very select, and well calculated to improve the stock of the country. We commend Mr. A.'s example to breeders, and trust he will reap a rich reward for his enterprise.

What a noble and beautiful sight must such a herd be in the magnificent park pastures of old Kentucky! We hope, one of these days, to visit them. It is twelve years this winter since we were in Kentucky, and we never enjoyed ourselves more than in the short tour we made in this superlatively rich agricultural State.

THE Annual meeting of the Connecticut State Agricultural Society will be held at the City Hall, in Hartford, on Wednesday, January 3d, 1855. The attendance of all interested in the objects of the Society is requested, as business of much importance will come before this session.

CHEMICAL LECTURES.—We notice in our advertising columns the announcement of a one month's course of lectures, by Prof. Porter, who has charge of the department of Agricultural Chemistry at Yale College. The course is shorter than heretofore, and on this account it will be much more conveniently attended than if continued, as formerly, two months and a half. The expense will be less, and many can leave home for that time who could not do so for a longer period. We do not attach much value to the general analysis of soils in the present imperfect development of that particular application of chemistry, yet we are quite sure that chemistry is doing much to advance agricultural improvement. Especially is this the case in reference to the various manures; and whoever studies but a little into this subject, will be amply repaid for any outlay of time or expense. A month in the laboratory, where chemical laws and changes are studied, with the apparatus and reagents in hand, is worth a year's study of books only. We advise every young and middle-aged farmer who can possibly leave home, to spend a month with Prof. Porter the present winter. For any particular information as to expense, board, &c., address as per advertisement.

DAILY JOURNALS.—Messrs. Francis & Lourel, of 77 Maiden-lane, have prepared a number of patterns of these for 1855, which are very convenient for making daily notes of business and other matters. We have found one of these, in pocket form, having a page for each day, very useful during the past twelve months. A very great advantage in such a book is, that we can turn forward to any future day and note down any thing requiring attention at that particular time. We have just received a copy of foolscap size, designed for the desk, which is quite tastefully ruled and bound.

AMERICAN MEDICAL MONTHLY.—We are glad to reckon among our readers a considerable number of medical gentlemen, and we take pleasure in recommending to their attention the American Medical Monthly. We have

just looked over the December number, and find it replete with information valuable to every one interested in the healing art. In this number is an article upon the analysis of blood stains found upon the garments of Francis Dick, the murderer of James Young, which all analytical chemists will do well to "make a note of." Edited by Dr. Edward H. Parker, and published monthly by Messrs. Evans & Dickinson, New-York. Price \$3 a year. The American Agriculturist and the American Medical Monthly will be furnished together for \$4 per annum.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE.—We have received an early copy of the January issue of this valuable magazine. Taking into consideration its cost, the elevated and unexceptionable character of the contents, the excellent mechanical execution and the great number of highly finished engravings, we place this in the first rank of American monthlies. Published by Messrs. Carleton & Phillips, No. 200 Mulberry-street. Price \$2 per ann. The American Agriculturist and the National Magazine will be furnished together for \$3.50 per annum.

DICKENS'S HOUSEHOLD WORDS.—There are few more readable periodicals published in our language than this. The American edition is an exact reprint of the English work, and is issued here as soon as the first sheets can be brought over. Mr. J. A. Dix, No. 10 Park-place, is sole publisher. The work is issued in both a weekly and monthly form, at \$3 a year. The American Agriculturist and Dickens's Household Words, monthly, will be furnished together for \$4 a year.

AMERICAN MACHINERY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.—We learn from our friends the Messrs. Buck, of Lebanon, N. H., whose advertisement for machines of various kinds is to be found in our columns, that they have just executed a large order for their improved machinery, for the Royal Armory, at Woolwich, England. They also say, that Messrs. Robbins and Lawrence, at Windsor, Vt., a few miles below them, on the Connecticut river, have executed another for the same party and destination, to the extent of \$80,000. The latter is exclusively for the manufacture of Minnie rifles, guns, &c., for which purpose our American machinery is, and long has been, unrivaled by any in the world.

BAYARD TAYLOR, the great traveler, says that he prefers Mexico for the beauty of its scenery—Germany for its society—California, specially, for its climate—and the United States for its government.

THE best "hit" in the last number of *Punch* is at Prussia. In allusion to the practice at London theaters of admitting persons at half price after the performance is partly over, he says, "theater of war—Prussia is waiting till half-price begins."

RUM has sunk more seamen than all the tempests that ever blew.

HOW MUCH TOBACCO IS USED.

THE present annual production of tobacco is estimated to be 4,000,000,000 pounds—four billions of pounds! This is all smoked, chewed, or snuffed. Suppose it all made into cigars, one hundred to the pound, it would produce 400,000,000,000. Four hundred billions of cigars! These cigars at the usual length—four inches—if joined together, would form one continuous cigar 25,252,520 miles long, which would encircle the earth more than one thousand times. Cut up into equal pieces, 240,000 miles in length, there would be over one thousand cigars which would extend from the center of the earth to the center of the moon.

Put these cigars into boxes 10 inches long, 4 inches wide and 3 inches high—100 to the box—it would require 4,000,000,000 boxes. Pile up these boxes in a solid mass, and they would occupy a space of 294,444,444—two hundred and ninety-four million cubic feet! If piled up 20 feet high, they would cover a farm of 338 acres, and if laid side by side, the boxes would cover very nearly 20,000 acres. Let some boy who reads the *American Agriculturist* estimate how large a village or city would be required to furnish store houses for all these boxes.

If a person smoke a cigar every 20 minutes, and continue this night and day, it would require an army of 2,500 such smokers 6,000 years to consume the above; and if each person smoked only four cigars a day—a pretty fair allowance we should say—it would take 45,000 smokers 6,000 years—a larger term than the human race has existed—to smoke up all the tobacco now produced in a single year.

Allowing this tobacco unmanufactured to cost on the average ten cents a pound, and we have 400,000,000 of dollars expended every year in producing a noxious, deleterious weed. At least one and a half times as much more is required to manufacture it into marketable form and dispose of it to the consumer. At the very lowest estimate then, the human family expend every year one thousand million of dollars in the gratification of an acquired habit—or one dollar for every man, woman, and child, upon the earth!!

This sum would build two railroads around the earth at a cost of twenty thousand dollars per mile, or sixteen railroads from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It would build one hundred thousand churches costing \$10,000 each; or half a million of school houses costing \$2,000 each; or one million of dwellings costing \$1,000 each. It would employ one million of preachers, and one million of teachers, giving each a salary of \$500. It would support three and one-third millions of young men at college, giving each \$300 per annum for expenses. We leave others to fill out the picture. Is this annual outlay to increase or decrease in future? Reader, how much do you contribute to this fund?

KEEP yourself innocent if you would be happy

Boys' Corner.

For the American Agriculturist.
OUR JOHNNY.

"Our Johnny," as the children call him, is a young lad from the Emerald Isle. He has pale blue eyes, which are usually more than half veiled by the lids. His walk is a peculiar, one-sided shuffle, utterly indescribable, and which I should consider entirely unique and original, had we not once had a Patrick in our employment who moved through the world in the same odd way.

Johnny's hair has formed no very intimate acquaintance with brush or comb, and has been reduced to but slight subordination. Each particular one has a will of its own, and stands up, or lies down, as is most agreeable, without any regard to the inclination of its neighbors.

Johnny's wardrobe is quite deficient in grace and elegance, and, here and there, time has left his mark upon it, in a rather discouraging manner. It is altogether too scanty to protect him from winter's cold, yet any additional comfort must be a gift to him, for he cannot afford to purchase it.

Johnny's general appearance is far from prepossessing, unless you look into the depths of his honest eye, but he is quite a favorite in the family. He has been employed occasionally, when a boy has been needed, and has always given satisfaction. "You are the boy for me," is sometimes said to him, and often thought of him. He is ignorant; he cannot write, and he does not know a letter of the alphabet. He never has had time to go to school, for, ever since he was old enough to do anything, he had been obliged to labor. He has known no childhood. So soon as he ceased to be a babe, he had to struggle for his daily bread, and his mind has always been oppressed by care. His father and mother both died, and the poor boy was left to battle, single-handed, with the stern realities of life. An elder brother came to America, and so soon as he had the means, sent for Johnny. He arrived the first of July, and united with his brother in celebrating our national birth-day. Since that time he has been diligently employed, working with his hands wherever and whenever he can find anything to do. Much of his time he has been in a factory, where he earns five shillings a day. He pays ten dollars a month for his board. If he could be constantly employed, he would be doing very well for the present, although in the factory he is learning nothing which will be of value to him in his future life. Owing to interruptions in his work, he has never cleared more than three dollars a month, and sometimes does not make even enough to pay his board.

"Our Johnny" would prefer to live on a farm. Although ignorant, he is apt to learn. He is willing and prompt, and anxious to please. How often have I wished that some one of our thriving farmers could take him into his family, and make of him an intelligent tiller of the soil.

Johnny is by no means the only boy who needs a home where he may be taught the

mysteries of agricultural life, and be prepared for his duties as an American citizen. New-York is full of children growing up in ignorance and vice, who might be saved if they could be early transplanted to country homes, where they should be watched over, and guarded from harm. Johnny is old enough, and has energy enough, to take care of himself, and he has been so accustomed to hardship that he fears not to contend with it; but there are multitudes of young children that cannot yet "discern between their right hand and their left," who are stretching them both out for protection. There are others, older, to whom the street is their only home, where they beg by day and sleep by night—motherless and fatherless, many of them, without a single friendly arm to lean upon, or to assist them to rise from their degradation.

I know it requires no little labor, and no small degree of care, to take one of these untutored children, and watch over it till it arrives at manhood or womanhood; but at the same time I know, if such guardianship is undertaken in the fear and love of God, he will give strength and grace to perform the duties it imposes.

ANNA HOPE.

A LITTLE GERMAN STORY.

A countryman one day returning from the city, took home with him five of the finest peaches one could possibly desire to see, and as his children had never beheld the fruit before, they rejoiced over them exceedingly, calling them the fine apples with the rosy cheeks, and soft plum like skins. The father divided them among his four children, and retained one for their mother. In the evening, ere the children retired to their chamber, their father questioned them by asking, "How did you like the rosy apples?"

"Very much, indeed, dear father," said the eldest boy; "it is a beautiful fruit, so acid, and yet so nice and soft to the taste; I have carefully preserved the stone that I may cultivate a tree."

"Right and bravely done," said the father; "that speaks well for regarding the future with care, and is becoming in a young husbandman."

"I have eaten mine and thrown the stone away," said the youngest, "beside which, mother gave me half of hers. Oh! it tasted so sweet and so melting in my mouth."

"Indeed," answered the father, "thou hast not been prudent. However, it was very natural and child-like, and displays wisdom enough for your years."

"I have picked up the stone," said the second son, "which my little brother threw away, cracked it and eaten the kernel, it was sweet to taste, but my peach I have sold for so much money, that when I go to the city I can buy twelve of them."

The parent shook his head reprovingly, saying, "Beware my boy of avarice. Prudence is all very well, but such conduct as yours is unchildlike and unnatural. Heaven guard thee my child from the fate of a miser. And you Edmund?" asked the father, turning to his third son, who frankly and openly replied:

"I have given my peach to the son of our neighbor, the sick George, who has had the fever. He would not take it, so I left it on his bed, and have just come away."

"Now," said the father, "who has done the best with his peach?"

"Brother Edmund!" the three exclaimed aloud; "brother Edmund!"

Edmund was still and silent, and the mother kissed him with tears of joy in her eyes. [Cambridge Chronicle.]

Scrap-Book.

TIGHT TIMES.

This chap is around again. He has been in town for a week. He may be seen on 'Change every day. He is over on the Pier, along Quay-street, up Broadway, stalks up State-street, looks in at the banks, and lounges in the hotels. He bores our merchants, and seats himself cozily in lawyers' offices. He is everywhere.

A great disturber of the public quiet, a pestilent fellow, is this same Tight Times. Everybody talks about him, everybody looks out for him, everybody hates him, and a great many hard words and no little profane epithets are bestowed upon him. Everybody would avoid him if they could, everybody would hiss him from 'Change, hoot him off the Pier, chase him from Quay-street, hustle him out of Broadway, kick him out of the banks, throw him out of the stores, out of the hotels, but they can't. Tight Times is a bore. A burr, he will stick. Hints are thrown away on him, abuse lavished in vain, kicks, cuffs, profanity are all thrown away on him. He is impervious to them all.

An impudent fellow is Tight Times. Ask for a discount, and he looks over your shoulder, winks at the cashier, and your note is thrown out. Ask a loan of the usurers at one per cent. a month, he looks over your securities and marks two and a half. Present a bill to your debtor, Tight Times shrugs his shoulders, rolls up his eyes, and you must call again. A wife asks for a fashionable brocade, a daughter for a new bonnet; he puts in his caveat, and the brocade and bonnet are postponed.

A great depreciator of stocks is Tight Times. He steps in among the brokers and down goes Central to par, to ninety-five, ninety, eighty-five. He plays the witch with Michigan Central, with Michigan Southern, with Hudson River, with New-York and Erie. He goes along the railroads in process of construction, and the Irishmen throw down their shovels and walk away. He puts his mark upon railroad bonds, and they find no purchasers, are hissed out of market, become obsolete, absolutely dead.

A great exploder of bubbles is Tight Times. He looks into the affairs of gold companies, and they fly to pieces; into kiting banks and they stop payment; into rickety insurance companies, and they vanish away. He walks around corner lots, draws a line across lithographic cities, and they disappear. He leaves his foot-print among mines, and the rich metal becomes dross. He breathes upon the cunningest schemes of speculation, and they burst like a torpedo.

A hard master for the poor, a cruel enemy to the laboring masses, is Tight Times. He takes the mechanic from his bench, the laborer from his work, the hod-carrier from his ladder. He runs up the prices of provisions, and he runs down the wages of labor. He runs up the price of fuel, and he runs down the ability to purchase it at any price. He makes little children hungry and cry for food, cold, and cry for fire and clothing. He makes poor women sad, makes mothers weep, discourages the hearts of fathers, carries care and anxiety into families, and sits a crouching desolation in the corner and on the hearth-stones of the poor. A hard master to the poor, is Tight Times.

A curious fellow is Tight Times, full of idiosyncrasies and crotchets. A cosmopolite—a wanderer too. Where he comes from

nobody knows, and where he goes nobody knows. He flashes along the telegraph wires, he takes a free passage in the cars, he seats himself in the stages or goes along the turnpikes on foot. He is a gentleman on Wall-street to-day, and a back settler on the borders of civilization to-morrow. We hear of him in London, in Paris, in St. Petersburg, at Vienna, Berlin, at Constantinople, at Calcutta, in China, all over the Commercial World, in every rural district—every where.

[Albany Register.]

TWENTY YEARS AGO.

I've wandered in the village, Tom, I've sat beneath the tree,
Upon the school-house play-grounds which sheltered you and me;
But none were there to greet me, Tom, and few were left to know,
That played with us upon the green some twenty years ago.

The grass is just as green, Tom; bare-footed boys at play
Were sporting just as we did then, with spirits just as gay;
But the master sleeps upon the hill, which, coated o'er with snow,
Afforded us a sliding-place, just twenty years ago.

The old school-house is altered now; the benches are replaced
By new ones, very like the same our pen-knives had defaced;
But the same old bricks are in the wall, the bell swings to and fro,
Its music just the same, dear Tom, 'twas twenty years ago.

The spring that babbled 'neath the hill, close by the spreading beech,
Is very low—'twas once so high that we could almost reach;
And, kneeling down to get a drink, dear Tom, I started so,
To see how much that I had changed, since twenty years ago.

Near by the spring, upon the elm, you know I cut your name,
Your sweetheart's just beneath it, Tom, and you did mine the same;
Some heartless wretch hath peeled the bark, 'twas dying sure but slow,
Just as that one, whose name you cut, died twenty years ago.

My lids hath long been dry, Tom, but the tears came in my eyes,
I thought of her I loved so well—those early broken ties;
I visited the old church-yard, and took some flowers to strew
Upon the graves of those we loved some twenty years ago.

Some are in the church-yard laid—some sleep beneath the sea;
But few are left of our old class, excepting you and me;
And when our time shall come, Tom, and we are called to go,
I hope they'll lay us where we played just twenty years ago.

NO LITTLE GIRLS NOW.

"WHAT has become of all the little girls now-a-days? One sees plenty of miniature young ladies, with basque waists and flounces, dress hats, and tiny watches, promenading the streets or attending juvenile parties; but alas! a little girl is a rarity—one who will play baby-house and live a lifetime in a few hours, making day and night succeed each other with astonishing rapidity, a fifteen minutes' recess at school for affording plenty of time for weeks of play-house life, one whom a neat, plain, gingham dress and sun-bonnet is the perfection of school dress—sun-bonnets that will not be injured if they are wet in river or brook, and aprons strong enough to bring home any quantity of nuts from the woods, in lieu of baskets; good strong shoes that will come off with ease on

a warm summer's day, when the cool brook tempts the warm feet to lave themselves in its waters, instead of delicate gaiters, which shrink from such rude treatment.

Well! it is to be hoped the race of little girls will not become utterly extinct. There must be some "wasting their sweetness upon the desert air," for surely they bloom not in our cities, and but rarely in our villages.

At an age when little girls used to be dressing dolls, we now see them decked in all their finery, parading—street, and flirting with young students. Where on earth are the mothers of these precious flirts? Are they willing to allow such folly?

Then as to dress—why, little miss must now be dressed as richly as mamma; and the wonder is, how will she be able to outvie her present splendor when she "comes out." But in this go-ahead age, some new inventions will enable her to accomplish her desire.

As there are no little girls, so there will be no young ladies; for when miss leaves school she is engaged, soon marries, and takes her place in the ranks of American matrons. How will she fill her place? for how or when has she found time to prepare for life's duties. Wonder if it would not be a good plan to turn over a new leaf, begin with them in season, and see if it is not possible to have again darling little creatures, full of life and glee, who can run and jump without fear of tearing flounce, and finally have a set of healthy young ladies, upon whom the sun has been allowed to shine, and active exercise in the open air bestowed an abundant supply of life and energy.

Unite a healthy body to the highly cultivated minds of our American wives and mothers, and they would be the admiration of the world, instead of their being pitied for their fragility."

[Home Journal.]

VULGAR WORDS.

TRUE—READ IT.—There is as much connection between the words and the thoughts as there is between the thoughts and the words; the latter are not only the expression of the former, but they have power to react upon the soul and leave the stain of corruption there. A young man who allows himself to use profane or vulgar words, has not only shown that there is a foul spot on his mind, but by the utterance of that word he extends that spot and inflames it till by indulgence it will soon pollute and ruin the whole soul. Be careful of your words as well as your thoughts. If you can control the tongue that no improper words are pronounced by it, you will soon be able to control the mind and save it from corruption. You extinguish the fire by smothering it, or prevent bad thoughts bursting out in language. Never utter a word anywhere which you would be ashamed to speak in the presence of the most religious man. Try this practice a little, and you will soon have command of yourself.

WORKING IN FAITH AND HOPE.—We live in a season of fermentation, which some deprecate as a change, others hail as progress; but those who venture, as they walk on their path through, to scatter a few seeds by the wayside in faith and charity, may at least cherish a hope that instead of being trampled down, or withered up, or choked among thorns, they will have a chance of life, and of bringing forth fruit, little or much in due season; for the earth, even by the waysides of common life, is no longer dry and barren, and stony hard, but green with promise—grateful for culture; and we are at length beginning to feel that all the blood

and tears by which it has been silently watered have not been shed in vain.

WHEN Philip Henry, the father of the great commentator, sought the hand of the only daughter and heiress of Matthews in marriage, an objection was made by her father, who admitted that he was a gentleman, a scholar, and an excellent preacher, but he was a stranger and they did not even know where he came from. "True," said the daughter, who had weighed the excellent qualities and graces of the stranger, "but I know where he is going, and should like to go with him;" and they walked life's pilgrimage together.

OPIUM EATERS.

THE New-York Dutchman gives the following new "Confessions of an Opium Eater": "We never could understand how people could get a taste for opium fastened on them. We tried a small quantity of it the other day, for a 'pain internally.' We were ordered to take two pills a day for four days. The first dose was really delicious. It gave us a pink-tinged sleep, filled to the brim with girls made of rose-leaves. We indulged in dreams of the most Oriental order. In one of them we had a mother-of-pearl hand-sled, with golden runners. With this we glided down a rainbow made of ice cream, and brought up on a terrace, the supports of which were great spars of emerald. The second night things began to change. About the supports of the terrace anacondas began to appear, while in the distance a lot of green monkeys with their tails burnt off, were quarreling about the propriety of making a pin-cushion of us. The third evening matters grew appalling. The terrace had gone, so had the rainbow and the girls made of rose leaves; and in their stead we had a bed filled with rattle-snakes, and on the head-board four grizzly bears pulling at a hawser, one end of which was fastened to our neck, and the other to an iceberg. That men should use opium for a day does not surprise us in the least; that they should do so, however, for a month, is really wonderful. Rather than become a confirmed opium eater, we would throw ourselves into *Ætna*. We can imagine nothing more terrible."

GOT HIM THERE.—While a number of lawyers and gentlemen were dining at Wis-casset, a few days ago, a jolly son of the Emerald Isle appeared and called for a dinner. The landlord told him he should dine when the gentlemen were done eating.

"Let him in among us," whispered a limb of the law, "and we shall have some fun with him."

The Irishman took his seat at the table. "You were not born in this country, my friend?"

"No sir; I was born in Ireland."

"Is your father living?"

"No, he is dead."

"What is your occupation?"

"Trading horses."

"Did your father ever cheat any one while here?"

"I suppose he did, sir."

"Where do you suppose he went to?"

"To Heaven, sir."

"Has he cheated any one there?"

"He has cheated one, I believe."

"Why did they not prosecute him?"

"Because they searched the whole kingdom of heaven, and couldn't find a lawyer."

REMEMBER THIS.—When a man owns himself to be in error, he does but tell you in other words that he is wiser than he was.

AIDS TO AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

We have received a copy of the proceedings at the first annual meeting of the Union Agricultural Society of Mason and Bracken Counties, Ky., including the annual address by Horace B. Stevenson, Esq. The society has started under favorable auspices, and promises to be an efficient agency in promoting the agricultural advancement of the West. The address is one of marked ability—conveys much sound advice—goes into a detail of the objects to be aimed at by those who would elevate and promote the true progress of the farming profession. We have only room for the following extract:

When we compare the present condition of agriculture, not only in our own country, but elsewhere, with what it was in times past, we are justified in anticipating illimitable future improvements as the reward of intelligent and persistent efforts. Let us glance at some of the improvements which modern systems have introduced; for indisputably they embrace principles and practices unknown, or imperfectly known, to the ancients.

A more accurate knowledge of the properties, action, and effect, and proper time and mode of applying all manures, animal, vegetable and mineral.

Thorough drainage and subsoil plowing.

The introduction of root crops in field culture, by which potatoes, turnips, beets, &c., &c., are made to perform an important part in economical husbandry: as, on a given surface more food for cattle may thus be produced than by the expensive culture of grain.

The systems of rotations in crops by which even poor lands may be made fertile, and all lands kept continually productive, without diminishing their fertility, of which laying down lands in grass is a striking feature, recently introduced.

As a consequence of the established utility of rotation, the substitution of fallow crops, requiring tillage during their growth, for naked fallows, by which it is meant turning out land to rest and recover its fertility by the decayed vegetable matters from a new growth of native trees and plants.

The improvement of various breeds of domestic animals, upon true physiological principles, by which desired results are obtained with more certainty, in less time, with less labor, and with less consumption of food.

The application of science, in multifarious forms, to the construction of implements and machinery, to the preparation of food for animals, &c., by which labor is rendered less toilsome, and more effective, and economy in the production, use, and disposal of crops, promoted.

Discoveries in the philosophy of vegetation and the principles of vegetable physiology and structure, enabling the intelligent and skillful cultivator to avail of many favorable circumstances, otherwise unavailable, in raising all vegetable products.

THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD.—Every one hears of them—few know what they really are, or rather were. They were:

1. The Colossus of Rhodes.
2. The Sepulchre of Mausolus, King of Caria.
3. The Palace of Cyrus.
4. The Pyramids of Egypt.
5. The Statue of Jupiter at Olympia.
6. The Temple of Diana at Ephesus.
7. The Walls and hanging Gardens of Babylon.

4,000 DOLLARS!!!

WORTH OF NEW BOOKS

ARE NOW READY

TO BE GIVEN AS

PREMIUMS,

FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THE

American Agriculturist.

Turn to page 236, and see the Premium List.

ALL THE BOOKS ARE NEW,

Just from the Press:

No old or second-hand books among them.

Send on the

NEW SUBSCRIBERS,

and take your choice of the

BOOKS.

They will be delivered at your Post-office FREE OF EXPENSE.

For each new subscriber, with \$2, half a dollar's worth of books will be given as a premium.

For each new subscriber at club prices, 25 cents' worth of books will be given.

Send for any one or more of the books named below, or on page 236, to which you are entitled by the amount of your premiums.

Good books are better than money.

REMEMBER! that each new subscriber confers a three-fold benefit—on yourself, by replenishing your library; on the new subscriber, by putting into his hands a valuable weekly paper; and on the *American Agriculturist*, by enlarging its circulation and increasing its facilities for usefulness.

The New Year is close at hand—let the work be done NOW.

- I. The Cow, Dairy Husbandry, and Cattle Breeding. Price 25 cents.
- II. Every Lady her own Flower Gardener. Price 25 cents.
- III. The American Kitchen Gardener. Price 25 cents.
- IV. The American Rose Culturer. Price 25 cents.
- V. Prize Essay on Manures. By S. L. Dana. Price 25 cents.
- VI. Skinner's Elements of Agriculture. Price 25 cents.
- VII. The Pests of the Farm, with Directions for Extirpation. Price 25 cents.
- VIII. Horses—their Varieties, Breeding, Management, &c. Price 25 cents.
- IX. The Hive and Honey Bee—their Diseases and Remedies. Price 25 cents.
- X. The Hog—its Diseases and Management. Price 25 cents.
- XI. The American Bird Fancier—Breeding, Raising, &c., &c. Price 25 cents.
- XII. Domestic Fowl and Ornamental Poultry. Price 25 cents.
- XIII. Chemistry made Easy for the Use of Farmers. Price 25 cents.
- XIV. The American Poultry Yard. The cheapest and best book published. Price \$1.
- XV. The American Field Book of Manures. Embracing all the Fertilizers known, with directions for use. By Browne. Price \$1 25.
- XVI. Buist's Kitchen Gardener. Price 75 cents.
- XVII. Stockhart's Chemical Field Lectures. Price \$1.
- XVIII. Wilson on the cultivation of Flax. Price 25 cents.
- XIX. The Farmer's Cyclopedia. By Blake. Price \$1 25.
- XX. Allen's Rural Architecture. Price \$1 25.
- XXI. Phelps's Bee Keeper's Chart. Illustrated. Price 25 cents.
- XXII. Johnston's Lectures on Practical Agriculture. Paper, price 25 cents.
- XXIII. Johnson's Agricultural Chemistry. Price \$1 25.
- XXIV. Johnson's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology. Price \$1.
- XXV. Randall's sheep Husbandry. Price \$1 25.
- XXVI. Miner's American Bee-Keeper's Manual. Price \$1.
- XXVII. Dadd's American Cattle Doctor. Complete. Price \$1.
- XXVIII. Fessenden's Complete Farmer and Gardener. 1 vol. Price \$1 25.
- XXIX. Allen's Treatise on the Culture of the Grape. Price \$1.
- XXX. Youatt on the Breeds and Management of Sheep. Price 75 cents.
- XXXI. Youatt on the Hog. Complete. Price 60 cents.
- XXXII. Youatt and Martin on Cattle. By Stevens. Price \$1 25.
- XXXIII. The Shepherd's own Book. Edited by Youatt, Skinner and Randall. Price \$2.
- XXXIV. Stephens's Book of the Farm; or Farmer's Guide. Edited by Skinner. Price \$4.
- XXXV. Allen's American Farm Book. Price \$1.
- XXXVI. The American Florist's Guide. Price 75 cents.
- XXXVII. The Cottage and Farm Bee-Keeper. Price 50 cents.
- XXXVIII. Hoare on the Culture of the Grape. Price 50 cents.
- XXXIX. Country Dwellings; or the American Architect. Price \$5.
- XL. Lindley's Guide to the Orchard. Price \$1 25.
- XLI. Gunn's Domestic Medicine. A book for every married man and woman. Price \$3.
- XLII. Nash's Progressive Farmer. A book for every boy in the country. Price 50 cents.
- XLIII. Allen's Diseases of Domestic Animals. Price 75 cents.
- XLIV. Saxton's Rural Hand-books. 2 vols. Price \$2 50.
- XLV. Beattie's Southern Agriculture. Price \$1.
- XLVI. Smith's Landscape Gardening. Containing Hints on arranging Parks, Pleasure Grounds, &c. Edited by Lewis F. Allen. Price \$1 25.

XLVII. The Farmer's Land Measurer; or Pocket Companion. Price 50 cents.

XLVIII. Buist's American Flower Garden Directory. Price \$1 25.

XLIX. The American Fruit Grower's Guide in Orchard and Garden. Being the most complete book on the subject ever published, \$1 25.

L. Quinby's Mysteries of Bee-Keeping Explained. Price \$1.

LI. Elliott's Fruit Grower's Guide. Price \$1 25.

LII. Thomas's Fruit Culturist. Price \$1.

LIII. Chorlton's Cold Grapery. Price 50 cents.

LIV. Pardee on the Strawberry. Price 50 cents.

LVI. Norton's Scientific Agriculture—New Edition. Price 75 cents.

LVII. DADD'S MODERN HORSE DOCTOR. Price \$1.

LVIII. Diseases of Horses' Feet. Price 25 cents.

LIX. Guinon's Milk Cows. Price 38 cents.

LX. Longstroth on Bees. Price \$1 25.

LXI. Book of Caged Birds. Price \$1.

LXII. Gray's Text Book of Botany. Price \$2.

LXIII. Directions for Use of Guano. Price 25 cents.

N. B.—Persons sending for two or more

of the above books, will please name some

one to whose care they may be sent by ex-

press, as it is often cheaper for us to send

them thus than by mail.

HINTS ABOUT DIRECTING LETTERS.

A LETTER addressed to a member of a firm as such, or to an editor of a paper, is not generally considered private unless so marked. Thus a letter directed,

Mr. A. B. Allen,

Editor of American Agriculturist,

No. 189 Water-street,

New-York.

would be liable to be opened by any one of the editors or clerks having charge of the the letters at the time of its reception, especially so if the person addressed was absent from the Office for any length of time. All private letters should be marked as in the following example:

Private.

Mr. Orange Judd,

Editor of American Agriculturist,

No. 189 Water-street,

New-York.

We also append here a convenient form for remitting subscriptions to the *American Agriculturist*:

NEW-BRIGHTON, Ohio, Dec. 22, 1854.

Messrs. ALLEN & Co.,

Inclosed are five dollars (\$5) for the American Agriculturist, to be sent as below.

Respectfully yours, JOHN GREENAULT.

One year to John Geenault, commencing with No. 69, at New-Brighton, Chillicothe Co., Ohio.
One year to James L. Johnston, commencing with No. 69, at New-Brighton, Chillicothe Co., Ohio.
One year to Richard Peterson, commencing with No. 69, at New-Brighton, Chillicothe Co., Ohio.

WHENEVER we find our temper ruffled towards a parent, a wife, a sister or brother, we should pause and think that in a few months or years they will be in the spirit-land, watching over us, or perchance we will be there watching over them.

MILK sold in Newburyport on Wednesday morning as high as sixty cents a gallon. In the afternoon it was down to twenty cents. It rained hard all day.

MEMORABLE SIEGES IN MODERN TIMES.—The following memorable sieges have taken place in modern times. The Siege of Acre, undertaken by Bonaparte, in 1799, was raised after 60 days, open trenches. At the siege of Algiers in 1816, bomb-vessels were first used by a French engineer, named Renau. Badajos was besieged by Lord Wellington in May, 1811, and the siege raised; again besieged in June, raised June 9; taken by escalade on the night of April 6, 1812. The Siege of Belgrade, which gave its name to a celebrated romantic opera, took place (the last one) in 1789. At the siege of Bommel, in 1794, the invention of the covert way was first practised. The besiegement of Burgos commenced Sept. 19, 1812. It was raised in a few days, and the French on their retreat blew up the works, June 13, 1813. The siege of Ismael took place in 1790. Suarow butchered 30,000 men, the brave garrison, and 6,000 women, in cold blood, Dec. 22, 1790. At the siege of Mothe, in France, the French, taught by a Mr. Muller, an English engineer, first practised the art of throwing shells. St. Sebastian was obstinately defended by the French, Sept. 8, 1813. The first experiment to reduce a fortress by springing globes of compression, was made in 1807, at Schweidnitz. In the same year the method of throwing red-hot balls was first practised at Stralsund.

WHEN YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR HAT.—Young man, a word. We want to tell you when you should take your hat and be off. And mind what we offer. It is—when you are asked to “take a drink.” When you find out you are courting an extravagant or slovenly girl. When you find yourself in doubtful company. When you discover that your expenses run ahead of your income. When you are abusing the confidence of your friends. When you think you are a great deal wiser than older and more experienced people than yourself. When you feel like getting trusted for a suit of clothes because you have not the money to pay for them. When you “wait upon” a lady just for the “fun of it.” When you don’t perform your duty, your whole duty, and nothing but your duty.

REPLY TO A CHALLENGE.—A little fop, conceiving himself insulted by a gentleman who ventured to give him some wholesome advice, strutted up to him with an air of importance, and said—“Sir, you are no gentleman; here is my card—consider yourself challenged! Should I be from home when you honor me with a call, I shall leave word with a friend to settle all the preliminaries to your satisfaction.” To which the other replied—“Sir, you are a fool! Here is my card—consider your nose pulled. And should I not be at home when you call on me, you will find I have left orders with my servant to show you into the street for your impudence!”

When a lawyer, on his passage to Europe, was one day walking the deck, it having blown pretty hard the preceding day, a shark was playing by the ship. Having never seen such an object before, he called to one of the sailors to tell him what it was.

“Why,” replied the tar, “I don’t know what name they know ’em by ashore, but here we call them sea-lawyers.”

It must be very annoying to a young lady who has devoted a lifetime to the reduction of her waist to the smallest possible span, to hear some handsome fellow, whom she instinctively feels is a good judge of such matters, exclaim, “what a lump of deformity!”

Of all the contemptible beings, especially avoid a tattler.

EVERY one writing to the Editors or Publishers of this journal will please read “Special Notices,” on last page.

EVERY dollar received for the *American Agriculturist* will be expended in enriching its pages with collections of practical knowledge, valuable engravings, &c. &c.

Our friends will oblige us by connecting as few other matters as possible with their subscription lists and premium orders, for two or three weeks, as these will occupy us much of the time. When other matters than business are inclosed in the same letter, let it be on a separate piece of paper.

PARTICULAR NOTICE.—We daily receive new subscribers without any specification as to the time they are to commence. We have printed a large extra edition of this volume, up to this time, and, as long as we have them, will send back numbers from the commencement, (September 13th,) when desired. Subscribers can commence at any time they will name.

It is our purpose to commence, soon after January 1st, a series of plain practical articles on Chemistry and its applications to every day life. We hope to present the subject in such a manner that every young person who reads the *American Agriculturist*, will become acquainted with this most important branch of science. We think that this series alone will be worth to every person many times the subscription price of the paper, as we shall apply the principles of chemistry to the actual operations of preparing food, drink, clothing, &c., besides showing wherein it may assist in cultivating the soil, and wherein it can not do so. The series will consist of short articles, and extend through the year. We delay commencing it till our new subscribers for 1855 are mostly in.

Markets.

REMARKS.—Flour has advanced the past week from 37½ to 62½ cts. per bbl. Corn is unchanged.

Wool is very dull and many failures of those engaged in the trade.

Cotton has advanced from ¾ to 1 ct. per lb. Other southern products no change.

The weather the past week has been extraordinary for December. According to Mr. Meriam’s statement, who keeps the most accurate register on Brooklyn heights, the lowest temperature on the 20th, at 6 and 7 A. M., was 3 degs. above zero; on the 23d, at the same hours, it was 9 degrees above zero. Since this it has moderated rapidly, rising above 50 at noon. On the 27th we have an abundant rain. In this city we have had not over one to two inches of snow at any one time this month, and this soon disappeared. North-west and North of us, it has fallen from one to four feet deep, and still

covers the ground. The temperature has been very low there also, ranging from 10 to 36 degrees below zero, according to the latitude.

PRODUCE MARKET.

TUESDAY, December 26, 1854.

The prices given in our reports from week to week, are the average wholesale prices obtained by producers, and not those at which produce is sold from the market. The variations in prices refer chiefly to the quality of the articles.

There is little change in the Produce Market since our last. The supply of Potatoes is limited, except Nova Scotias, of which a few cargoes have recently come in. Other kinds of vegetables are plentiful and rather dull.

There is a fair supply of Western apples on hand, much better, it is anticipated, than will be a month or two later. The prices have not changed materially.

Butter, Eggs, and Cheese continue about the same, both in supply and prices.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes, New-Jersey Mercers, \$3 75@ \$4 57 per bbl.; Western Mercers, \$3 25@ \$3 75; Nova Scotia Mercers, \$1 15@ \$1 25 per bush.; New-Jersey Carters, \$3 50@ \$3 75 per bbl.; Washington Co. Carters, \$3 50@ \$3 75; Junes, \$3 @ \$3 25; Western Reds, \$2 50@ \$3 12½; White Pink Eyes, \$3 50@ \$3 75; Yellow Pink Eyes, \$2 75 @ \$3 25; Long Reds, \$2 @ \$2 50; Virginia, Sweet Potatoes \$3 25@ \$3 50; Philadelphia, \$4 50; Turnips, Ruta Baga \$2 @ \$2 25; White, \$1 25@ \$1 75; Onions, White, none; Red, \$2 50@ \$3; Yellow, \$2 75@ \$3 50; Cabbages, \$4 @ \$7 per 100; Beets, \$1 25 per bbl.; Carrots, \$1; Parsnips, \$1 50; Celery, \$1 @ \$1 25 per dozen.

FRUITS.—Apples, Spitzenbergs and Greenings, \$2 25@ \$2 50 per bbl.; Russets and Gilliflowers, \$2.

Butter, Orange Co., 21 @ 24c. per lb.; Western, 15 @ 18c.; Eggs, 23 @ 26c. per doz.; Cheese, 10c. @ 11c. per lb.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

WEDNESDAY, December 27, 1854.

There are but few good cattle in market to-day, and in fact few of any kind, and the market is very dull. There is considerable advance in prices. The few cattle give the brokers an advantage over the butchers, and they have taken the liberty to fix their own prices. The best cattle are sold to-day from 10½c. to 11c. per lb.—prices which cuts off the profits of the butchers, as raising the retail price of meat is out of the question in these times—and those only purchase who are compelled to. Some of them went away without buying at all, declaring they would rather purchase ready butchered meat down town than submit to such prices.

As to the present Market-day, established by general agreement, we hear little complaint, and it will doubtless continue, though cattle will be offered for sale almost every day, and many more on the clearing-up day than formerly.

The following are about the highest and lowest prices:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Superior quality beef is selling at..... | 10½ @ 11c. per lb. |
| Fair quality do..... | 9 @ 10½c. do. |
| Inferior do. do..... | 7 @ 7½c. do. |
| Beeves..... | 7c. @ 11c. |
| Cows and Calves..... | \$30 @ \$55. |
| Veals..... | 4½c. @ 6½c. |
| Sheep..... | \$2 @ \$5. |
| Lambs..... | \$1 50 @ \$4 50. |
| Swine..... | 4½ @ 4½. |

Washington Yards, Forty-fourth-street.

A. M. ALLESTON, Proprietor.

| RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK. | IN MARKET TO-DAY. |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Beeves,..... | 1005 |
| Cows,..... | 44 |
| Veals,..... | 164 |
| Sheep and lambs,..... | 1613 |
| Swine,..... | 2148 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Of these there came by the Erie Railroad..... | 100 |
| By the Harlem Railroad..... | 467 |
| By the Hudson River Railroad..... | 200 |
| By the Hudson River Steamboats..... | — |
| New-York State furnished, 164; Pennsylvania, 90; Indiana, 51; Kentucky, 194; New-Jersey, 28. | |

SHEEP MARKET.

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1854.

THERE was a little improvement in the sheep market last week. The supply to-day is not large, and the demand is fair. With a change of weather we may hope to see it decidedly better.

We noticed to-day, at Tompkins’ market, at the stall of Mr. P. Woodcock, some of the South-down and Leicester sheep of which we spoke in our last. They appeared quite as well dressed as alive, which is no more than saying they are equal to any we ever saw.

Agricultural Implements.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—The subscriber offers for sale the following valuable Implements:

FAN MILLS—Of various kinds, for Rice as well as Wheat, Rye, &c.

GRAIN DRILLS—A machine which every large grain planter should possess. They are of the best patterns, embracing several varieties and sizes, and all the most valuable improvements.

SMUT MACHINES, Pilkington's, the most approved for general use.

HAY AND COTTON PRESSES—Bullock's Progressive Power-presses, and several other patterns, combining improvements which make them by far the best in use.

GRAIN MILLS, Corn and Cob Crushers, a very large assortment and of the best and latest improved kinds.

GRAIN MILLS, STEEL and CAST IRON Mills, at \$6 to \$25, and Burr-Stone at \$50 to \$250, for Horse or Steam Power.

TILE MACHINES—For making Draining Tiles of all descriptions and sizes.

WATER RAMS, SUCTION, FORCE and Endless-chain Pumps; Leather, Gutta Percha, India Rubber Hose, Lead Pipe, &c.

CALIFORNIA IMPLEMENTS OF ALL kinds, made expressly for the California and Oregon markets.

DRAINING TILES OF ALL FORMS and sizes.

THRESHERS AND FANNING-MILLS combined, of three sizes and prices, requiring from two to eight horses to drive them, with corresponding horse powers. These are the latest improved patterns in the United States.

SOUTHERN PLOWS—Nos. 10½, 11½, 12½, 14, 15, 18, 19, 19½, 20, A 1, A 2, Nos. 50, 60, and all other sizes.

PLOWS—A large variety of patterns, among which are the most approved Sod, Stubble, Side-hill, Double-mold, Sub-soil, Lock Coupler, Self-Sharpener, &c.

CARTS and WAGGONS—With iron and wood axles, on hand or made to order, in the best and most serviceable manner.

HAY, STRAW and STALK CUTTERS of all sizes and great variety of patterns.

CORN SHELLERS—For Hand or Horse Power.

FARMERS and MERCHANTS WILL find at my Warehouse every Implement or Machine required on a PLANTATION, FARM, or GARDEN. I would call attention to a few of many others offered for sale:

VEGETABLE CUTTERS and VEGETABLE BOILERS, for cutting and boiling food for stock.

BUSH HOOKS and SCYTHES, ROOT-PULLERS, POST-HOLE AUGURS, OX YOKES, OX, LOG and TRACE CHAINS.

Grub Hoes, Picks, Wheelbarrows, Shovels, Spades, Harrows, Road-Scrapers, Grindstones, Cultivators, Seed and Grain Drills, Garden Engines.

Sausage Cutters and Stuffers, Garden and Field Rollers, Mowing and Reaping Machines, Churns, Cheese Presses, Portable Blacksmith Forges, Bark Mills, Corn and Cob Crushers, Weather Vanes, Lightning Rods, Horticultural and Carpenters' Tool Chests.

Clover Hullers, Saw Machines, Cotton Gins, Shingle Machines, Scales, Gin Gear, Apple Parers, Rakes, Wire Cloth, Hay and Manure Forks, Belting for Machinery, &c.

R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water-st.

GRASS SEEDS.—Timothy, Red Top, Kentucky Blue, Orchard, Fowl Meadow, Ray, Sweet-scented Vernal, Tall Fescue, Muskier or Texas, Tall Out and Spurry.

Red and White Clover.

Lucerne.

Saintfoin.

Alfalfa Clover.

Sweet-scented Clover.

Crimson or Scarlet Clover.

FIELD SEEDS.—A full assortment of the best Field Seeds, pure and perfectly fresh, including Winter and Spring Wheat of all the best varieties. Winter Rye, Barley, Buckwheat.

Oats, of several choice kinds.

Corn, of great variety.

Spring and Winter Fitches.

PEAS, BEETS, CARROTS, PARSNIPS, and all other useful Seeds for the farmer and planter.

GARDEN SEEDS.—A large and complete assortment of the different kinds in use at the North and South—all fresh and pure, and imported and home grown expressly for my establishment.

MISCELLANEOUS SEEDS.—Osage, Orange, Locust, Buckthorn, Tobacco, Common and Italian Millet, Broom Corn, Cotton, Flax, Canary, Hemp, Rape and Rice.

FRUIT TREES.—Choice sorts, including the Apple, Pear, Quince, Plum, Peach, Apricot, Nectarine, &c., &c.

ORNAMENTAL TREES and SHRUBBERY.—Orders received for all the native Forest Trees Shrubs and for such foreign kinds as have become acclimated.

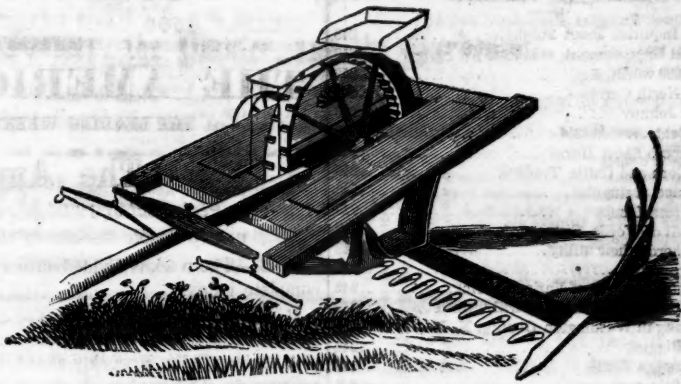
R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water-st.

FOR SALE, AT THE SOUTH NORWALK NURSERY, a fine stock of the New-Rochelle (or Lawton) Blackberry Plants, at \$6 per dozen; also the White-fruited variety at \$3 per dozen; also the new or pure Red Antwerp Raspberry.

51-76

GEO. SEYMOUR & CO., South Norwalk, Conn.

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